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The Free Will Baptist

JANUARY 1996

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January • Volume 113 • Number 1

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NEXT MONTH

Christian
Education
Month

January is
Retirement
Homes Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and co-operation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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Retirement Homes

January is Retirement Homes Month

January 28th is Retirement Homes Sunday

Request

A place in your prayers
A gift: individual, church Free Will offering

Information

For information about Retirement Homes, churches may consult the denomination yearbook and report books. Our office has bulletins, inserts, and brochures available to supply to any church upon request.

Representative

Retirement Homes will send a representative to your church or any church-related ministry at a time of convenience to share information about the ministry.

Contact

Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes
Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513
Telephone: 746-4963

Thanks

Our thanks to each individual, church, and related ministry for your cooperation and support.

The North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, during its September 1974 sitting, authorized the establishment of The Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes, Inc., contingent upon ratification by the annual Conference that would be meeting later that Fall. Upon completion of the ratification process Retirement Homes began its operation in January of 1975. Its Board of Directors was composed of members of the Children's Home and Superannuation Boards. It was their duty to plan and implement a ministry of care to be offered to the retired community within the denomination. The Board proceeded to register the institution with the State of North Carolina. The Charter was granted in early spring. By mid-year tax exempt status had been granted by State and Federal Agencies.

From the beginning, *Service with Care* has been the fundamental principle that governed all our plans and endeavors. From our vantage point, we see ourselves as the denomination offering a schedule of services with care to those who have already given a portion of their time, talents, and personal resources to their church and denomination. Our focus is upon faithful pastors and wives, Sunday School Teachers, Deacons, Committee Members, and Board Members who served the church and denomination with or without remuneration. Whatever Retirement Homes does in their behalf is a gesture of kindness with deep appreciation.

When we speak of Service, we are thinking exclusively of benefits

that will be helpful to retired people. We have chosen five areas which we believe best meets this criterion. These areas are inter-related. Each compliments the other. Together, they form a beautiful package of benefits that is basic to retirement living. Note the content of this package: (1) Community-based housing; (2) Utilities; (3) Home appliances; (4) Repairs; (5) Yard care. Anyone who takes the time to think through these areas of service will, for the most part, agree with our conclusions. Granted there may be some imbalance here but we believe it is a good step in the right direction. Blessed is the person who is relieved from these day to day responsibilities. Retirement Homes assumes these responsibilities for each person received into care.

When we speak of care, we are thinking, "How can these services be best administered?" Retirement Homes is a Christian institution, therefore the Bible is our best source at this point. Scripture speaks with abundance and clarity about God's love and redemption. The Apostle John says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..." (1 John 3:1). God has revealed to us and bestowed upon us His love through Jesus Christ—His person, words, and works. Love is the beginning of many wonderful virtues. Care flows from love. Care causes us to have feeling for the needs of others. We are touched by their misfortune. These virtues adorn our services making them meaningful. People who have problems with this

kind of social care, have problems of their own to which they should give attention. There is no place in our ministry for hardhearted, indifferent, profit-minded people. No matter how different or demanding persons in our care may be or become, we are determined to grace them with these virtues. Moreover, no matter how unduly critical a person or congregation may be toward this ministry, they will be treated with love and respect. Our response to their needs will be forthcoming when funds are available and we are aware. The doors to our office are always open and all who enter them will receive due audience.

Since the late 1970s, Retirement Homes has cared for more than twenty families. They have felt the gentle touch of Free Will Baptist people helping them in their closing years of life. Currently there are four families in our care. They have the warm assurance they are not forgotten. They know that God is providing some of their basic living needs through the love and care of Original Free Will Baptist people. As a denomination of churches and people we should be thankful there is a ministry in place and working in a beautiful way. To God be the glory.

Therefore, for these reasons and more, Retirement Homes should remain a ministry entity of the Convention. The retired segment of the denomination increases with each passing month. Currently there is a demand for our services, and this demand will continue. Sufficient funding could meet the needs of the most critical case. Together, we can meet those needs and cause this

Then & Now Cont...

ministry to attain the highest expectations. Accomplishments would complement our Convention and honor our Lord, Jesus Christ in whose name we labor.

For those who take time to read this and become more informed, I am grateful. We pray God's additional blessings upon you. We invite you to join hands with us and together we will rebuild this ministry. For others whose heart has been touched, you should be thankful. You are now aware and responsible. Rise up with energy, take the initiative and do something in a personal way to help. Those out there who are already helping and praying should be assured that your salvation experience is genuine and working from within—outward. That is the way it should work. James the Apostle, our Lord's half-brother in the flesh, says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

If the old proverb is true that, "a man never stands so tall as when he reaches down to help a child in need", it is equally true that, "he never walks so straight as when he reaches in love to help the elderly."

January is Retirement Homes Month according to our denominational calendar. A grand opportunity for us to walk straight with our arms reaching out, and our hands open in support of this ministry. Fourth Sunday in January is Retirement Homes Sunday. A gift from each church would make the difference. Your prayers will be appreciated. Be counted as one who helped Retirement Homes in January.

Rev. Walter Sutton



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College Singers Perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

For the third time since 1989, the Mount Olive College Singers were invited to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

The parade was broadcast live on NBC, Singers Director Irene S. Patten said. In this visit, the Singers performed at the front of the parade line-up and again at the end of the parade, following the traditional final float carrying Santa Claus. Numbers they performed included "Celebrate" and "We Need A Little Christmas," both arranged by Mac Huff.

The Singers performed in the parade as part of a larger cast of singers and dancers called America Sings!, a nonprofit organization founded by choreographer John Jacobsen to benefit homeless children. Jacobsen first met the Singers at the 40th Presidential Inauguration event in Washington, DC, in 1985, and he visits the group annually in Mount Olive to choreograph its performance showcases for the coming year.

During their trip to New York City, the Singers visited Radio City Music Hall to see its annual "Christmas Spectacular" and attended a performance of "Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway. They also participated in an America Sings! service project for homeless children, delivering clothing to Rosie and Harry's Place, a shelter for homeless children, Patten said.

The members of the 1995-96 Mount Olive College Singers include Chris Berry of Hillsboro; Penny Mitchell of Snow Hill; Heather Shirley of Farmville; Melissa Taylor of Faison; Lee Honeycutt of Dunn; Philip Crawley and Steven Hamilton, both of Swansboro; Keri-Anne Godwin and Dwayne Bevell, both of Goldsboro; Stephen Hill and Valerie Rose, both of Mount Olive; Gerald Salter of Beaufort; and Donna Whitley of Rocky Mount.



FREE WILL BAPTISTS CONTRIBUTE \$329,277 AT COUNTY DINNERS FOR MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Original Free Will Baptist churches of eastern North Carolina contributed \$329,277 to Mount Olive College at their annual fund raising dinner recently.

"These gifts make a tremendous difference in the lives of students who pursue an education on our campus," said Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support.

"The friends of the college across eastern North Carolina have done exceptionally well. We are very grateful for all of our donors because each donor is very important to the work of Mount Olive College," she said. She recognized the work of county and church chairpersons for the dinner program as instrumental in the dinners' success.

Since the dinner program began in

1963, Original Free Will Baptist churches have contributed more than \$5 million to Mount Olive College which is sponsored by the denomination.

Recognized at the dinners were 1,513 Bridge Builders, individuals or groups who have pledged an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more through the dinner program.

Scholarship certificates for \$100 were awarded to various churches for contributing the highest amount at the dinners, for contributing the highest amount per church member, and for having the highest number of high school students in attendance. The scholarships may be granted by the recipient churches to one or more of its students who now attend or plan to attend Mount Olive College.

1995 CHURCH DINNERS FOR MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE REPORT BY COUNTIES

County	1995 Dinner Gift	Bridge Builders
Beaufort	11,719	56
Carteret	13,126	67
Craven	17,895	63
Duplin	12,443	70
Edgecombe	5,852	36
Greene	22,626	95
Johnston-Wake	40,353	164
Jones	5,700	20
Lenoir	20,125	106
Nash	9,376	35
Onslow-Brunswick	3,890	18
Pamlico	6,642	38
Pitt	29,193	141
Sampson-Harnett-Cumberland	31,827	168
Washington-Martin-Tyrrell-Pasquotank	11,196	57
Wayne	54,258	206
Wilson	33,056	173
Total	329,277	1,513

History of Dinner Gifts to Mount Olive College

Year	Amount	5-Year Total
1963	\$52,093	
1964	53,371	
1965	50,207	
1966	55,777	
1967	54,882	\$266,330
1968	53,803	
1969	57,086	
1970	37,873	
1971	51,241	
1972	61,261	261,264
1973	59,759	
1974	66,824	
1975	83,680	
1976	92,733	
1977	101,666	404,662
1978	118,273	
1979	134,496	
1980	143,747	
1981	150,414	
1982	154,697	701,627
1983	166,181	
1984	183,987	
1985	202,657	
1986	225,684	
1987	250,356	1,028,865
1988	261,795	
1989	291,221	
1990	304,226	
1991	300,855	
1992	307,678	1,465,775
1993	308,404	
1994	319,678	
1995	329,277	
Total		\$5,085,882

Did My Offering Make A Difference?

Dear Free Will Baptist Friends:

Have you ever wondered if the offering you made to a special cause made a difference? My name is Judy Warren Aycock, an Alumni of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC, and I would like to tell you that it did.

My father died when I was eight years old, and my mother was unable to care for the six children left at home. My oldest sister, Carolyn, was married and not living at home. My oldest brother joined the military and two of my other brothers, two sister and myself were sent to live at the Children's Home.

During my stay there my needs were met. I always had clothing, food, and a warm clean place to live and sleep. I guess like most children, I took for granted where the money was coming from that provided these needs for me. I did know that the Free Will Baptist people were supporting the Home.

Many years later as I reflect on my stay there, I am not sure that I ever really showed my appreciation for all that you provided me with. I would like to do this now and say to each and everyone that gave of their time, money, and prayers, that you made a tremendous difference in my life and of so many other children.

I am presently serving my second term as president of the alumni association for the Children's Home, and I must tell you that it has been such a rewarding experience. I have made many friends with former children of the home that I did not know before. Dr. Bobby Taylor and the staff at the home are so very supportive of our organization. Each year we are able to return to the campus for a Sunday service and lunch and then spend the afternoon reminiscing and just being together again.

My life today is such a success because of the love and support that each of you has given the home. I don't want you to think that there haven't been struggles within my life, but because of the love and support you gave and the foundation that was there for me, I have been able to deal with my broken past, and live today as a healthy and happy adult. My relationship with my children is first and foremost.

Your offering did make a difference and from each and every child that you loved and supported we say "Thanks." I would like to extend to each of you a special invitation to visit with us during our Sunday service at our 50th Homecoming in July 1996. We are currently planning the next Homecoming and are excited about the possibilities. We have encouraged the alumni to contact the church that sponsored them and plan a visit. Please contact Mr. Gary Lee at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home for information by calling 919-235-2161. We hope to see you in 1996.

With warmest regards,

Judy Warren Aycock
President of Alumni Association

Thank You!!!

The children and staff would like to thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the '95 Christmas season. Your commitment to provide for our children through Christmas sponsorships and our annual Christmas campaign has been greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and reward you greatly for your service to our children. Thanks again and we hope you have a great new year!!

Church Growth: Year of Renewal Baptismal Service

by Antonio Escobar

This has been a very good year for our churches in Mexico. The revivals, the programs that every church experiences gave the desired results. This year there has been a considerable number of persons converted. I believe that these results are the evidence of the power of the Gospel and the love of God reaching for the lost. This evidence of God's power motivates us to work even more in the vineyard of the Lord; knowing that His work is not in vain.

There were twelve baptisms during August and September. The Sinai FWB Church of Saltillo had one; Jordan FWB Church, four; and Emmanuel FWB Church had seven.

We give thanks to the Lord for these twelve brethren who were added to our church family during these months. We are praying for these new converts, that they will be good Christians and good

disciples of the Lord. May the Lord use their lives for the growth of His Church.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued

stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Act 2:41-42).

My prayer is that the Lord will bless all the churches and the pastors in every place where they labor for Him.



First Fruit II

Samet is 14 years old, he has a brother of 6 years and a sister of 4 years old. They live in a self-built house of two rooms. His parents are strong Moslem believers and they are always looking out for a job to earn their daily bread, which is difficult for Gypsies.

Together with Valerie he often helps me with the young children when we have outings to the beach or to the forest during nice summer days.

Samet is the naughtiest of all. He keeps us laughing even in times of great difficulties and sorrows. When fellow members of his group make wrong statements or give wrong answers to questions, he mostly reacts with healthy humor.

Like all did before, Samet too was living without Christ.

From the time that the young people



started to teach by themselves I have learned a lot about the matters that stir their minds, in which sometimes heavy storms are raging.

Samet chose to teach about Noah and the flood. He brought a Messianic thought into this story of salvation to life on earth.

He said: "In that very old time, very, very old people were behaving the same as the people do today. They had no cars, no telephones, but they were disobedient to God like in our days. Noah was saved by faith in God. In the same way we will be saved if we believe in Jesus Christ who will carry us through the waters of our personal troubles. The troubles which we experience in our daily lives. Like the Ark once carried all the life that was in it, so Jesus Christ wants to carry all our lives today. Salvation is Life."

He also said: "I don't give my Lord Jesus away for anything, even if they promise me to eat chicken every day.

First Fruit II cont...

Better to be hungry and to live with Jesus, because my soul is more important than my stomach."

He ended his lesson with the words: "Berecit Verçin Allayah." He said it in Turkish, which was so good to all of us. It means: "Because of His Goodness we (can) live."

The discussion went about the change of life. Some people say: "When you start to believe in Jesus, then you must leave all things behind you and start completely new." We talked about it and not all could agree on that. Samet said: "O.K., we must stop to gamble and all kind of other worldly things which we better not mention here in this meeting. If you really love Jesus then it will not be difficult to live a better life, to live a different life."

I am happy that their faith in Jesus Christ is strong, it is deep and sincere like their Moslem faith before. They all believe that there is only one God and that only precious God provided a Saviour to all of us; no other person can save us, no other God will provide LIFE. Him we must serve!

Many Christian believers were born in a Christian family, many believe in Jesus because they received Him through Christian education and tradition, but these boys though they are very young had to look into another way of Life to become able to understand the real Life with Jesus Christ. From a total other point of view they have chosen for themselves to follow Jesus.

Thank you Almighty God for your watching over those who really love you. Thank you so much for all the blessings which you have provided to them. Above all, thank you for the struggles we have, because they make us to be a real family. To be a family means to live through the struggles and also to take part in the joy and the happiness together.

"Berecit verçin Allayah." Because of His Goodness we Live.

Tanan

The Second Fruit of T.E.E.

by Dario S. Basingil

On August 7-14, 1995, the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines once again conducted a one week Theological Education by Extension at El Shaddai Full Gospel Church in Cebu City.

We had thirteen (13) students who enrolled and committed themselves to study the Word of God, and graduated in the said Theological Education by Extension.

The thirteen students were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Pastor Virgilio Cañeda | 8) Brother Aratochi Bajao |
| 2) Pastor Rogelio Manzan | 9) Sister Cleofe Lastimosa |
| 3) Pastor Edwin Bajao | 10) Sister Benita Tuane |
| 4) Pastor Alfonso Marzon | 11) Sister Josefina Manzan |
| 5) Brother Apolonio Paquit | 12) Sister Clyde Bajao |
| 6) Brother Tirso Ayungao | 13) Sister Lady Bird Faith Perocillo |
| 7) Brother Medardo Davin | |

We have five students who came from other province, like Pastor Edwin Bajao, his son Aratochi and his daughter Sister Clyde Bajao, these three are from Cagayan de Oro City, province of Mindanao, the two students Pastor Alfonso Marzon and Brother Tirso Ayungao came from the Municipality of Sagbayan province of Bohol, the birth place of the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo, and the rest of the students are from Cebu city.

The Theological Education by Extension had offered twelve courses:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1) How to study the Bible | 7) Ministry of Reconciliation |
| 2) Biblical Way of Salvation | 8) Free Will Baptist Church Distinctive |
| 3) How to preach | 9) Church Planting and Mission |
| 4) How to pray | 10) Church Administration |
| 5) What the Bible teaches | 11) Cults |
| 6) How to teach the Bible | 12) Christian Family Life |

I and the Rev. Antonio Samones Jr. went to Cebu City to be one of their teachers for one week. We thank God for His provision to us, that through the foreign mission in the person of the Rev. Harold Jones and family, God used them to be a part of the work of the Lord in the Philippines.

I greatly appreciate the concern shown by the Foreign Mission the bretheren in North Carolina U.S.A, and the Rev. Harold Jones and family through their support in T.E.E., Theological Education by Extension program in terms of financial needs.



MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1996

AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE

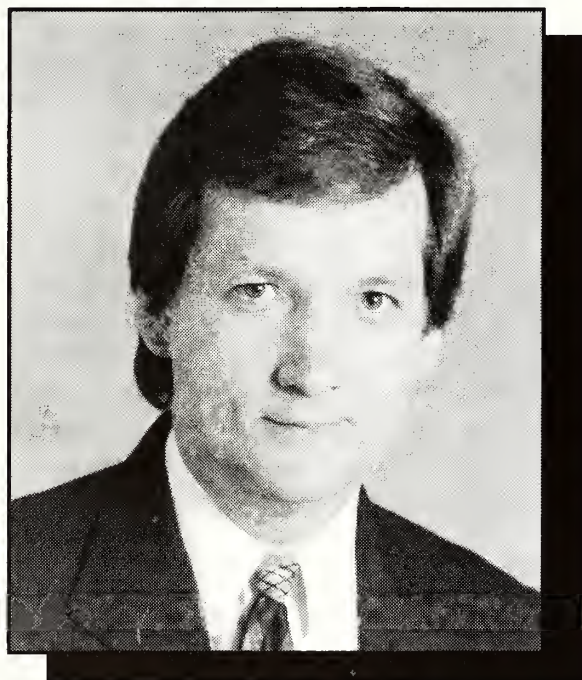
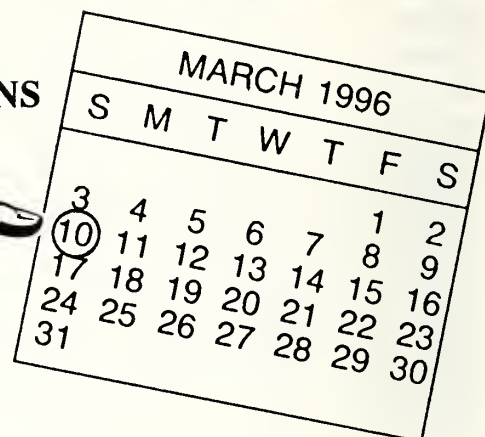
Annual World Missions Conference

Sponsored by the

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

PLACE: Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
(Highway 421, Dunn, NC)

TIME: 5:00 pm Opening Service
6:00 pm Light snack provided by BFM with
the generous help of the host church.
7:00 pm Closing Service
Special Music by host church



Speaker: The Rev. Scott McHugh

President of Days of Heaven Ministries, Inc., an organization committed to facilitating spiritual awakening and world evangelism. He has taught Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Seminars across the United States. He has been a guest teacher for the Metro Bible Study in Atlanta and worked with Dan DeHaan as an associate teacher for the National Institute of Biblical Studies. He is senior pastor of the Church at North Point in Atlanta, Georgia.

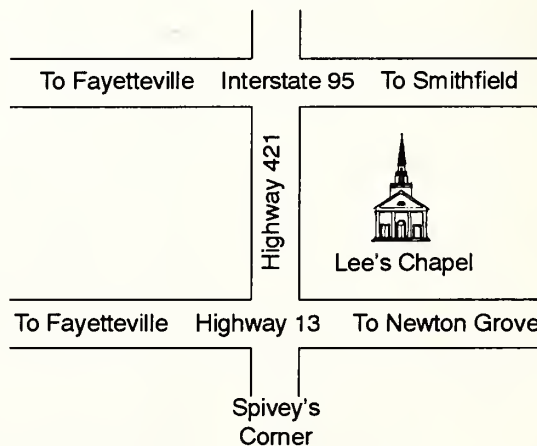
The Conference will be over by 8:00 pm so you will not be so late returning home.

The Board decided to change the Conference to Sunday, in order to give more people an opportunity to participate. We encourage churches to call off their evening service and join us for this special time of renewal.

THEME: PRAYER — RENEWAL — MISSIONS

The Church is located on Highway 421 between Dunn and Spivey's Corner.

Dunn, NC



Spivey's
Corner



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN
MISSIONS**
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Phone: 919-746-4963

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.
PRAY DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE**

FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON

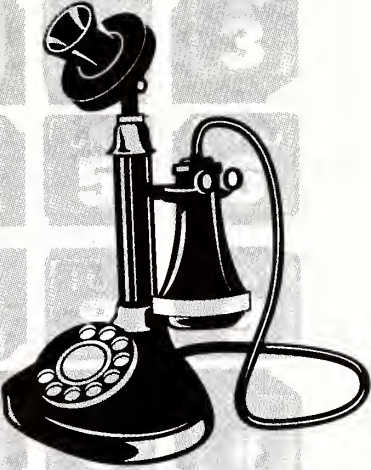
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1996

THEME: RENEW OUR VISION

(A PRAYER)

Theme Verse: "Where there is no vision, the
people perish..." Proverbs 29:18a.

Where there is vision, the people flourish.



(919) 746-4963

The Telethon, Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is an opportune time to seek the Lord for renewal.
From renewal comes great missions endeavor and giving.

GOAL 1996: A total of \$110,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if every church and individual will trust the Lord in prayer for His provision and give according to His supply. Giving gladly so others can hear of Jesus Christ is a true sign of renewal.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 pm. Dial (919) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday gives evidence of a renewed vision and love for the lost around the world.

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. WHEN WE GIVE, HE GIVES MUCH MORE IN RETURN.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" II Corinthians 9:6-8.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 24, 1996

Revival comes when God's people see the need for revival and earnestly seek Him through prayer.
Revival gives a new vision of God's purpose for the Church.

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:12-13.

The Lord has promised to hear our earnest prayers and reveal Himself to us when we seek Him. Revival is simply seeking the constant fullness of God in our life and living daily to glorify Him in word and deed. Let's give ourselves to this kind of prayer and believe God to revive us personally and the Church as a whole.

**PRAYER GOAL 1996: All churches joining together in united prayer
during the Worship Hour, March 24, 1996.
LET US PRAY!**



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN
MISSIONS**
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Phone: 919-746-4963

Victory Cleans Up!

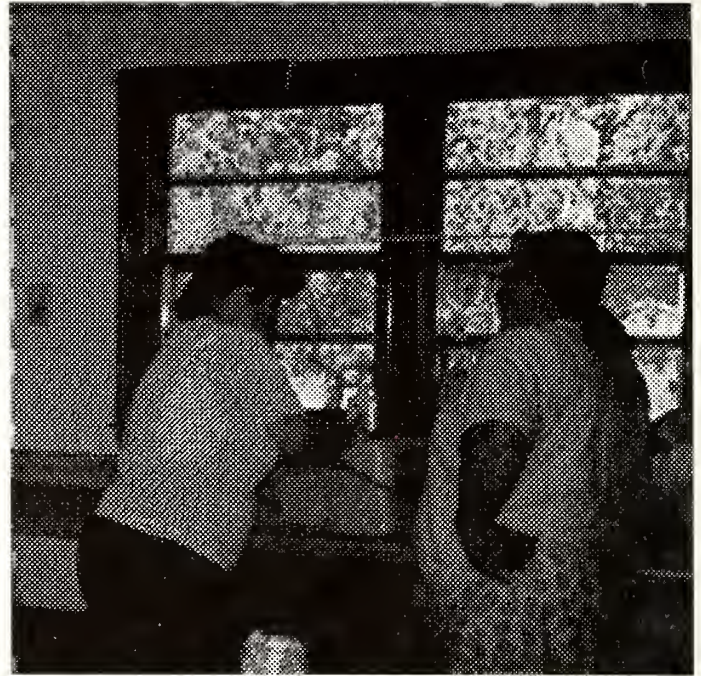
Saturday, October 28, 1995, was clean up day at Victory First Deaf Mission/Church in Hope Mills. We gathered Saturday morning at various times and began the work of cleaning and mowing, to make our buildings and grounds more attractive. In the picture below, Charles Gibbons is vacuuming in the sanctuary.



Outside, Charles Bristow is cutting the grass...



...neither of these men is bothered by the noise of the vacuum cleaner, or the lawn mower.



Above, Marin Bandel (on left) and Carolyn Gibbons are at the kitchen sink preparing the solution for the carpet cleaner.

Marin is the "Interpreter" for the deaf people and she not only graciously donates her time in that service, but she also helps with the other work of the mission/church. Carolyn, a hearing person, is a local aviation traffic controller and is the wife of Charles Gibbons.

In addition to the need for general clean up the Victory family has a special reason for working so hard; a fellowship luncheon following worship on Sunday, November 12, 1995. Below, Linda Bristow "signs" the blessing, while Larry Merritt reverently "watches", for a delicious meal which was enjoyed by all.



NEW BERN
BIBLE AND BOOKSTORE
Is RELOCATING To

GLENBURNIE PLAZA
1232 S. GLENBURNIE ROAD
NEAR THE FOOD LION

CLOSED
DECEMBER 23

PLAN TO REOPEN
THE 3RD OF JANUARY

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COOPERATION



Credit "One" With Youth Ministries Failure

by Randy Cobb, September 9, 1995

Could it be possible that most of the mistakes made in youth ministry all fall under one mistake?

No doubt: youth ministry is difficult. Could it be why most people would not touch it with a ten-foot pole? Working with youth and teaching them Christian principles is challenging. It seems that almost every influence in their lives goes against the things that Christianity would teach them. From Music Television to parental and community role models which say one thing and do another, clearly and accurately communicating the Gospel to youth can at times seem hopeless. **If simple communication is tough, and it is, how much more difficult it is to actually get the Message to become a part of their everyday lives.**

But reaching the youth is only one aspect of youth ministry. Surely it is the goal, but it is a goal which can only be reached after overcoming many hurdles. Possibly the first hurdle is the church itself. Most churches do not understand youth ministry. The youth culture itself changes so fast that it is difficult for anyone to "keep up." **In order for the church to reach young people it must understand and do whatever it takes to reach the end goal—communicating the Gospel.** Too many churches try to reach youth like they would young married couples or senior citizens. Do people realize that teens are not young married couples? Youth "hang" at the mall, not the coffee shop.

Another hurdle in the race to reaching youth for Jesus is parents. Not that they, in themselves, are a problem but working closely with them is a challenge for any youth leader. Youth typi-

cally do not want parents participating in their activities. Some parents want to be involved. Leaders need them involved. This circle of tension can seem endless. **Yet, while communicating with parents is essential, it too is a challenge.** Letters are too impersonal, but accomplish through mass communication. Calls are normally impossible; who is ever home and who ever gets messages? Meetings are impossible because, who has time or energy? Be rest assured that trouble starts when leaders do not communicate. Leaders need the parental influence and input: parents need to understand the group is composed of many families, priorities, and even values. Ultimately no youth ministry will be successful without mutual leader and parent support and communication.

While the church and parents may represent a host of perspectives which illustrate some of the difficulties of youth ministry, perhaps the real hardship can only be credited to one area. Could it be accurate to say that 99.5% of all the hardships associated with youth ministry are due to one factor? Through the past five years of doing "youth ministry" I have learned that most of my failures and shortcomings could be blamed on one thing. **Perhaps a good word to live by would be: to underestimate is to ask for failure.**

The church is essentially the Body of Christ. **Who can rightfully say they want to underestimate what the Body of Christ can do?** Jesus performed all sorts of miracles. Because He has ascended to heaven, the church is now the active Body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. What an insult it is to God when He is underesti-

mated? **Any church with a small vision or sense of calling is living unbiblically.** God has great plans for you. Remember that with God nothing is impossible? Offering excuses like, "we're only a small country church" is to slap God with lazy rejection. It is much easier to think these thoughts than it is to seek and fulfill the God-given calling. Satan would love to have people to continue to think with little or no vision. What is God doing in today's society? He is putting people in places to get things done or either removing them for the field all together. The church should quit underestimating what it could do in the area of youth ministry. Seek God; get the plan; carry it out. Oh yeah, — let nothing stand in your way. **Underestimating what the united Body of Christ can do is suicidal.**

Underestimating what parents can do in the area of youth ministry is a second common mistake. Parents need youth and youth need parents. Leaders who do not realize this and take action on it are missing something. Totally leaving parents out of youth ministry is giving the ministry a type of self-inflicted pain. **Not that every youth event needs to be showered with parents, but without them the ministry is sure to have a drought.** Youth events with parents present should support the family unit. They should be opportunities for parents and youth to learn more about each other and to enjoy being together, something they normally do not take time to do. Sound crazy? How unreal would it be for "families" to take each other on for a round of miniature golf? Sounds like something even a dad might get involved with doesn't it?

While the average or "normal" activity may have parents involved from a distance, they should never be totally left out.

Things should not change that much when parents are around. They normally enjoy being assistants and backup personnel; something that is always needed. Have some parents around when youth get hurt in an accident and you'll be glad they were there. Leaders should continue to lead and direct events and, with discretion, control the discipline issues which arise. Failure to work closely with parents is just plain failure.

The Body of Christ does not need to be underestimated but the biggest mistake in youth ministry is underestimating the youth themselves. The biggest surprises for me during my years of youth ministry has been in watching the youth. It is a grave error to think youth cannot have the Gospel as a part of their daily lives. **Underestimating their desire, need, and ability in living Christian life is the result of not completely understanding them or the God that loves them.** Outside of their being the most resourceful creatures on earth, youth are a mixture of several things: energy and more energy, inner hunger and searching, compelling dedication and time.

Thankfully they seem to calm down at about sixteen but they only slow down after college. One thing that youth have is energy. They are active busy bodies currently doing whatever they can find to do that they believe will be entertaining, fun, or challenging. Why are video games so synonymous with youth? It is the thrill of challenge. **What would happen if youth focused their unharnessable energy on fulfilling the commands of Christ. Do not snicker in sin at this thought. It could happen—to believe that it could not is to underestimate.** They need only appropriate teaching, leading, guiding,

and motivation. The modeling comes from dedicated leaders who love them and are themselves fulfilling the commands of Christ. The motivation comes natural. It comes from having experienced the joy and strength of being obedient to Christ's mandates.

I believe God is sending a wake-up call to youth leaders in America. I believe the message is that the Body of Christ should realize that youth are really searching for a reason and purpose. **Don't let the appearance fool you. It only takes setting down for a couple of minutes with youth before one is able to realize that under the headphones and baggies there is a human who not only need but also wants God.** If they are searching, and they are, why not give them what they want? Youth ministry should be understood from the perspective of "helping youth to reach a satisfaction in fulfilling the hunger within them regarding their identity and purpose." The seemingly more popular perspective which says, "I know they do not want it but I just got to cram this Book in their head so they will not die and go to hell" is sickening. This perspective has no conviction, no power, no love, and is normally delivered by someone who needs a few weeks to get their own life with God straight. Underestimating a youth's need and genuine desire for God is the gravest of mistakes which results in the deadliest of errors.

Have you ever seen a young person who was really dedicated to something and did not spend most of their time in allegiance to it? How many youth do you know that love baseball and play spring league, summer league, fall league...get the picture? Most youth do lots of things because they have lots of interests. When the truly give their allegiance to something they have a unique way of giving it their all. **How would our society change if this caliber of dedication were to be focused**

on living Christianity? How would your community change if just three youth from each church give Jesus all they had? How would your church change if the youth group, big or small, were to become totally dedicated to Christ? Believing that this could not happen is underestimating their potential and the caliber of their dedication. **Their potential is unlimited because God is the source.** Their dedication can be proven in other activities. They need only to understand what to do and to be shown how. The dedication will come as natural as the motivation.

There is another common mistake in youth ministry. Perhaps it should be mentioned last because its topic should always come last (and most of the time they do). **Youth leaders who underestimate themselves are asking for destruction.** For five years I have been a stressed-out, what-how, how-in-the-world, say-it-ain't-so, youth leader. It has been a blast! It has involved the best days of my life — at times. It has involved the worst days of my life — at times. The times when things have been at best were when it was said "we can do this" or "we did this." These statements boldly state that no area has been underestimated. The saddest times have been when a need was seen or a calling from God heard and the response was "there is no way." What a clear and concise way to reject God. There is something about leaders underestimating themselves that is different than when they underestimate others. In underestimating themselves leaders wrestle with the issue of faith in God. **Who in their right mind believes in themselves anyway? It is not us, it is Him.**

Moses was brilliant when he gave God three excuses. When he did this, he did not yet understand that it was not going to be him alone who would lead the Israelites out of captivity. Later Moses learned that he was only an

Credit "One" With Youth Ministry Failure Cont...

instrument. Moses realized that God was the strength and guide. Moses knew better than to believe in or even to trust himself. When he realized that it would be God in him — then Moses was excuseless.

When leaders underestimate themselves to the extent of hindering ministry they are really rejecting God. It is not going to be them doing the work anyway. Like Moses, they are only in-

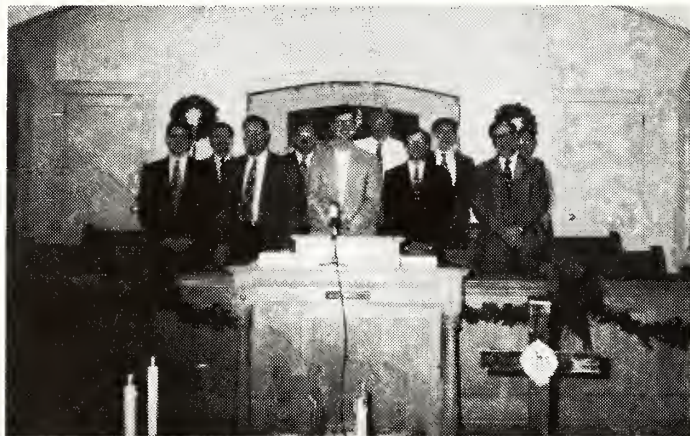
struments though which the calling and power of God flows. **So leaders, go ahead realizing that you can not, but do not underestimate God who can.** He will fulfill the calling of your youth group. His leading will not only have that current youth to grow but will bring in new youth. He will take care of the church members who do not understand why "that" music is necessary and that parent who "must" have the activity run

his way. Underestimate yourself enough for God to take over.

Can we really credit "one" with youth ministry failure? Often the answer is yes. This "one" is easily defined as the underestimating factor. Recognize and even accept the overbearing challenges in youth ministry, but be convinced that if you underestimate the God in you (and your youth) then you have failed already.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE NEWS

Pictures of Central District Layman's Meeting at Rose Hill FWB Church December 4, 1995



Announcements

- January 4, 1996 — Executive Board Meeting, Harrell's Chapel FWB Church, 7pm
- May 3, 1996 — State Meeting
- May 4, 1996 — State Singspiration, Harrell's Chapel FWB Church

**The State Layman's League wishes everyone a safe and Happy New Year.
God Bless You.**

The Inauguration of J. William Byrd as Third President of Mount Olive College

Dr. Pepper Worthington • Writer-In-Residence • Mount Olive College

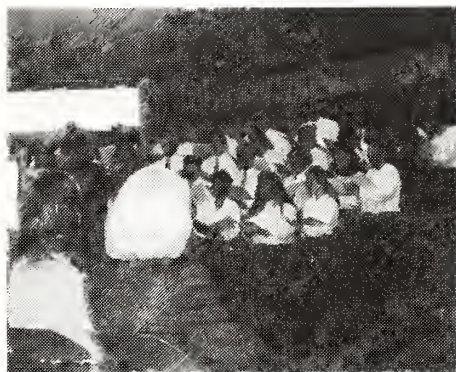
"This is a *good* day the Lord has made and given to us," said the Reverend Dr. De Wayne Eakes, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. "We are glad all of you are here to share these events with us today. All participants in the Inaugural Convocation are continuing in the tradition of higher excellence in the Christian liberal arts education," he said to the guests, Trustees, alumni, students, staff, and friends gathered in College Hall, Saturday, September 30, 1995, to celebrate the inauguration of the third president of Mount Olive College, Dr. J. William Byrd.

"Mount Olive College was chartered on the slopes of Mount Allen at Cragmont. People then only *dreamed* a College like this would exist today. The first president of the College was the Reverend Lloyd W. Vernon. The second president, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, served the College 40 years. Today the third president, Dr. J. William Byrd, will be inaugurated. Dr. Byrd has already proven his abilities to lead the College in the direction we need to grow," Dr. Eakes declared.

With a bright smile of welcome, Dr. Eakes announced, "We are beginning a new part of our tradition. We have never had such an event as this one today. Again we say to all gathered here, welcome! We are so very glad you have chosen to be a part of this important day in the history of Mount Olive College.

Mr. Jason N. Myers
President, Student
Government Association

"I feel I am one of Dr. Byrd's friends as well as students," said Mr. Jason N. Myers, president of the Student Government Association. "Dr. Byrd came to one of our S.G.A. meetings and wanted to know the concerns of the S.G.A.



The Mount Olive College Choir with the Reverend George H. Roach, Jr., as conductor and Ms. Julie E. Wetherington as accompanist, sang "Incline Your Ear, O Lord" and "Sing A Joyful Song" at the Inauguration of J. William Byrd as Third President of Mount Olive College. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"We had a few words to say to him, but he said my name and that meant a lot to me. I felt at that meeting Dr. Byrd made a point to make a personal touch to the students. I thank Dr. Byrd for being such an individual," he concluded.

Ms. Lillian B. Langley
Class of 1955

"I am here today to represent the alumni," began Ms. Lillian B. Langley. "I knew Bill Byrd in high school," she recalled with a twinkle in her eyes. "We called him Billy Byrd. He and I sat in the concert band next to each other. He played the tuba. He outranked me then. He was a captain; I was a lieutenant," she reported with a lighthearted gleefulness.

"I think of the lyrics of the song, 'Where have you been, Billy Boy, Billy Boy? Where have you been?' Well, Billy Boy has been to Raleigh, Pennsylvania, Boone, East Carolina University, and now Mount Olive College. You may think he got his funny voice when he got doctor in front of his name. But you're

wrong. He had that funny voice all of his life. Without his knowledge or with it, God has been planning for his life. I know how he loves the Lord. I know how he loves the minds of young men and young women. I know how he loves his beautiful wife. I am happy to be here today to welcome Dr. Byrd. I am grateful that you are here today," she said warmly as she smiled, her face joyous, jubilant, playful.

Ms. Dorothy C. Whitley
Academic Dean

"My remarks are to Dr. Byrd," stated Ms. Dorothy C. Whitley, Academic Dean. "I bring greetings, congratulations, and expectations. Greetings to you in your new leadership. Congratulations to you for a life of achievement that has brought you here. The expectations of leadership ahead combine stewardship with character. We look forward to a scholarly community of teachers and learners, to a stewardship that generates and monitors, to a character that transcends politics with measured judgment and solemn insight," she challenged.

"I am reminded of John Ruskin's definition of education," she continued. "John Ruskin insisted that the 'entire object of true education is to make people not merely to do right things but to enjoy them... not merely to learn but to love knowledge... not merely to know justice but to hunger and thirst after justice.' I ask that the rights, privileges, and responsibilities be the true educational guide to your decisions. I give you the assurance that you have the support of faculty and staff of Mount Olive College," she declared.

"We pledge to you," she added, "to give to you our loyalty and best efforts where we speak and act. May God grant you serenity, wisdom, and peace."

The Reverend E. Ray Wells
President of
Original Free Will
Baptists

"On behalf of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and our churches, I send congratulations and support to the new president, Dr. J. William Byrd," reported the Reverend E. Ray Wells

"I first met Dr. Byrd when he became a candidate for the president. He came to my church. It was his first speaking engagement. He did a great job. Following the message, he had lunch with us in the fellowship hall. He had chicken stew, candied yams, southern vegetables, bread. He ate well and I knew then that the Free Will Baptists had chosen the right man for the College," he said with a robust chuckle.

"A resolution passed at the Eighty-Third Convention of Original Free Baptists to place the support of the churches to Dr. Byrd. We pray to uplift him in his work. I publicly welcome Dr. Byrd and his family to our denominational family. I pledge my support as President of the Original Free Will Baptists and member churches of the Convention to Dr. Byrd in his new role of leadership as the third president of Mount Olive College. God bless you."

Mr. R. Lloyd Warren
Manager, Town of
Mount Olive

"Indeed it is a privilege to be back at Mount Olive College and represent the town of Mount Olive in this Inaugural Convocation. I send a warm welcome to all from our community," said Mr. R. Lloyd Warren as his face beamed.

"Mount Olive is a community justifiably proud of its rich history. We are a town with natural beauty, warm, friendly people. We have delicious pickles and this beautiful college. We are proud of our native son, Dr. J. William Byrd," he declared.

"On behalf of our community, we extend to you our greetings, our prayers,

our pledge, our love. We send to you, Dr. Byrd, our best wishes for a long and distinguished tenure as president of Mount Olive College," he concluded.

Dr. A. Hope Williams
President, North Carolina
Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities

"I send you greetings on behalf of the other 36 presidents of other independent colleges and universities, announced Dr. A. Hope Williams, president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

"Mount Olive College is a very special place," she said. "This College also holds a special place in education. It is second among all institutions in the percentage of North Carolina students it enrolls. So many might not receive a college education without Mount Olive College."

With a smile she insisted, "Dr. Raper has got to stop job hopping. The average stay of a president is three to four years. Dr. Raper's 40 years of dedication has thrown that average off. If Dr. Byrd follows in Dr. Raper's tradition, the next Inaugural Convocation will be in 2035," she reported.

"The 36 other institutions of independent colleges and universities have similar characteristics to Mount Olive College: the classes are small, teachers know if students are in class, teachers care about students, teaching and learning are the major focus," she explained.

"I feel a certain pride today as we congratulate Dr. Byrd as the third president of Mount Olive College. On behalf of the 36 other presidents, I send best wishes for a long and distinguished tenure as president of Mount Olive College."

Dr. John O. Dwyer
Associate Executive Director
Commission on Colleges

"I send you greetings from the Commission on Colleges," announced Dr.

John O. Dwyer, associate executive director of the Commission on Colleges.

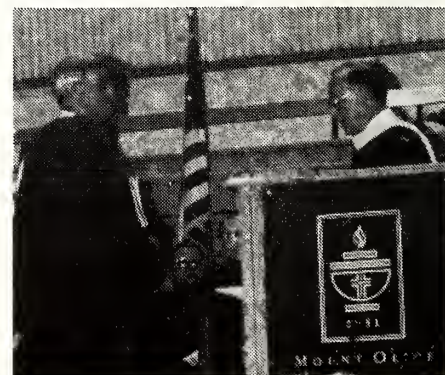
"As Mount Olive College approaches its half-century mark under the leadership of a new president, this occasion offers us a wonderful symbolism. The processional music, Giuseppe Verdi's *Grand March* from *AIDA* is a triumphal march of the opera. This music was wisely chosen, because the march in the opera celebrates the treasures of Africa. Likewise," he added, "the recessional music, Handel's *See, The Conquering Hero Comes*, is symbolic," he said.

"You have chosen as your president a man of character and purpose. I am proud to welcome Dr. Byrd as one of the 800 leaders who make up the Commission on Colleges."

Dr. Samuel H. Houston, Jr.
Executive Director,
North Carolina Education
Standards and Accountability
Commission, Office of the
Governor

"I send you greetings from Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. The Governor's father has spent three decades on the Board of Trustees at Mount Olive College. The Governor understands that the future of North Carolina's economy is invested in your hands," he announced.

"Public education today is not without peril," he reported, "University and college education *will change*," he insisted. "This college is still in its infancy. Dr. Byrd, you can take this College to adulthood. I congratulate you."



Mr. L. Marvin Edwards, Jr. (right) reads the oath of commitment to Dr. J. William Byrd (left) at

Installation of the President Mr. L. Marvin Edwards, Jr. Chair of the Board of Trustees

"I thank Dr. Raper's family for being here," began Mr. L. Marvin Edwards, Jr. "I thank Dr. Byrd's family for being here. I thank the Lord for sending Dr. Byrd our way. I now ask Dr. Byrd to come forward to take the oath."

Dr. Byrd came forward.

Mr. Edwards, Jr., began, "May you promote the quest for knowledge. May you be a benefactor for the collective welfare of society. May you serve the needs of the strong and the weak, the ambitious and the timid. May your spirit be attuned to the founders of this College. Do you accept this position and substance of this call to service?"

"I will," replied Dr. Byrd fervently.

"I declare you installed as president of Mount Olive College. I give you this medallion to put around your neck to demonstrate the authority given to you by the Board of Trustees and to remind you of this call to you today."

The Inaugural Address Dr. J. William Byrd President of Mount Olive College

"I accept the medallion with humility and pride," began Dr. J. William Byrd, third president of Mount Olive College.

"It is a good day. I wish I could go around the hall and mention a special relationship with each one here. There are many good stories to be told. There are many good lessons to be learned. The greetings today have been generous and merciful. I think of our North Carolina writer, Thomas Wolfe, who insisted that you can't return home. Perhaps that should be restated that you shouldn't return home."

A soft laughter rippled through College Hall.



Dr. J. William Byrd is given a standing ovation by all those attending the Inauguration on September 30, 1995, in College Hall at Mount Olive College. Behind Dr. Byrd are Dr. Samuel H. Houston, Jr. (far left), the Reverend E. Ray Wells (back center), and the Reverend Dr. De Wayne Eakes (far right). (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"This is a wonderful time for me. I thank each of you for being here. I thank the delegates here representing other colleges. I thank the Board of Trustees for being here. I thank of all you in our common pursuit. You are my friends," he declared.

"All who seek hope for improvement, I salute you. I solicit your enduring good will and support," he said.

"To the faculty, I challenge you to be ever vigilant to build the quality of education and to be humbled to be able to do the important things of society," he said.

"To my wife, I thank you for your forbearance and long suffering," he acknowledged as he looked at his wife in the front row.

"This is a great day to be at Mount Olive College. This is a great day to be in North Carolina. This is a great day to be in America. We still need education to help citizens meet the rapidly changing culture of our time. For this vision to fashion this college, I thank Dr. Raper. The welfare of this College was in his waking hours and dreaming. His work has always been a partnership with God and his brothers," he declared.

Dr. Raper received a standing ovation in College Hall. He acknowledged Dr. Byrd's tribute with a tear in his eyes, but he stood, waved his appreciation, and in his heart passed the torch of leadership to a younger man.

"There are warts in American education," stated Dr. Byrd. "Though we are a nation with Nobel prize winners, achievements in literature, art, computer software, we still have our warts. Where

are the warts?" he asked.

"In American education we are the most liberal in *proposing changes* but most conservative in *changing within*. Our reluctance in being pro-active in the manner in which we engage is part of the process of education. We have held to cherished methods in the face of larger and larger numbers in this world. Today there are persons who have fallen out of the economic strata. Can the teacher-scholar be able to attack? Where do I believe us to be?" he asked.

Turning to his own academic discipline of physics, he noted, "The history of physics might provide us with some insight. In the early history of physics there were fundamental tenets of evasive concepts such as space, time, and energy. By the year 1920, questions arose. The laws of thermodynamics evolved. Some earlier tenets and methods of physics from Newton to Einstein did not work in all situations. Elaborative methods failed when applied to new situations. In the 1920s it was clear that a *brand new approach* was needed in physics. Our universe was described in a twofold manner: as *particles* (baseballs, chickens) and as *waves* (ocean, propagation of life). Then in physics the particles and waves became a manifestation of not two aspects of nature but of one. Particles and waves were one. Quantum mechanics was born. The old scientific methods had to be transformed into new ways," he explained. Something of the passion he experienced as a professor of physics emerged.

"Our educational system has produced significant successes. However, these successes have not worked for all people, so we have patched here and there. We have not confronted enough the new information-based society, the cost problems, access to and retention of students, the new technology used in *real terms*," he declared.

"What we need to do today is to back off and replace what we have with a new model just as physics did," he explained through analogy.

"What are some fundamental changes to reshape our education system?" he asked.

He paused. College Hall became a place of attentive well-wishers eager to hear the vision of the new third president of Mount Olive College.



1996 JANUARY

Is Retirement Homes Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	1	2	3
7	8 + Convention Officers 9:30 am Headquarters Prayer Time 11:00 am	9 + Task Force 10:00 am	10 * Sp + Press l
14	15 * Campus Visitation Day Headquarters Prayer Time 11:00 am	16 * Spring Convocation, 11:00 am College Hall	17
21	22 Headquarters Prayer Time 11:00 am	23 + Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 am	24
28	29 Headquarters Prayer Time 11:00 am	30	31

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

G E N D

Previous/following month

Current month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Minister's Program
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Home Missions
- ◆ Layman's League
- ✿ Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Children's Home
- ✿ Woman's Auxiliary

	THU	FRI	SAT
	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunday School Board, 7:00 pm Headquarters ◆ Layman's League Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm Harrell's Chapel 	5	6
Registration Trial Deadline	11	12	13
	18	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children's Home Alumni
	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Minister's Program 7:00 pm 	26	27
	28	29	30
February Is Christian Education Month			

"First," began Dr. Byrd, "we must preserve the special calling of our heritage. Second, we must allow for creative problem solving. Third, our teachers must become more managers of learning. Fourth, our students must become skilled and acquire a body of knowledge for daily living and fulfillment. Five, our learning environment must provide access to all the tools necessary for this time in our history," he stated.

"How can we reach such goals?" he asked.

Again he paused.

"To reach such goals we must develop a creative enterprise, a new model for the academic community. We must communicate higher values and come to understand who we are and whom we want to be. Our standards and values will always be an issue. We will always seek to travel the high road. We are important to the students we serve," he declared.

"And who are the students we serve?" he asked.

"Our students range from the age of teens to 50. We reach approximately 1,200 students. Our model is expanding to include both the traditional college student and the non-traditional student," he reported.

"I wish to thank our Inaugural Committee who have worked long and hard. I want to thank the members of the Mount Olive Choir who have worked very hard to pull together for this event. I want to thank the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble where I play the tuba. I want to thank the student marshals and student ambassadors who have represented the College," he said.

"And," he concluded, "the best job our College can ever do is to get our students out, so that the community can see them."

Prayer of Installation

The Reverend

Dr. Michael R. Pelt

Professor Emeritus of Religion

"God of all Creation, we pause now to offer you our prayers of thanksgiving.

We thank you for all of those who are here. We are most grateful for the light that has come into the world to awaken in us the love of truth. You are our inspiration. You are our noblest dreams. We thank you for the vision of those to launch our College four decades ago. We thank you for the many thousand faithful men and women who have achieved goals. We give thanks for the chain of events

that has brought our new president to us. We thank you for his proven leadership qualities, for his genuine humanity. As the giver of all good gifts, bestow upon this man thy richest blessings. Grant him wisdom, courage, the faith necessary to lead this College. We pray for divine guidance in decisions yet to be made," prayed the Reverend Dr. Michael R. Pelt, professor emeritus of religion.

Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner: The Challenge of the Third President of Mount Olive College, Dr. J. William Byrd

Dr. Pepper Worthington • Writer-in-Residence • Mount Olive College

The Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner began with the inspirational music of the Kings Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church Ensemble. Three musicians made the Murphy Center come alive: Michele Wooten, flute; Judy Jones, piano; Jay Tripp, saxophone. The buffet spread prepared by Gordon Wall and his staff, served by the Ambassadors made the evening festive, nurturing, and celebrative.



Judy Jones at the piano, Michele Wooten with the flute, and Jay Tripp on saxophone made the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner an event. They played such inspirational songs as "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" and "Amazing Grace." (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

Mrs. Jean Ackiss, director of Church Support for Mount Olive College, welcomed more than 500 guests to the College campus and acknowledged the blessing of the music provided by the Ensemble.

Miss Julie Wetherington, Sophomore, Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church, Craven County

"I am sure most of you have heard the story of Cinderella," began Miss Wetherington. "In the story, Cinderella sings about her dream. She has suffered trials. She has worked hard. I understand this. To be here at Mount Olive College is special to me, as if a dream come true," said Miss Wetherington as she smiled. Joy radiated from her face.

"Mount Olive College is a very special college to me," she declared. "There are down-to-earth people here. There are people strong in faith. There is beauty here. People are willing to go the extra mile. The chapel is located in the center of the campus," she noted.

Boldly she insisted, "Mount Olive College is our destination and our future. Here we may look for friends. Here teachers know who you are. Here is a

campus which helps us in the transition from leaving home," she said. "And," she added, "there are many activities here for us. There are opportunities."

"Last year, for example," she recalled, "we had the opportunity to attend the prayer breakfast in Washington, DC with the Reverend Billy Graham and President Clinton there. We sang in the Washington Cathedral."

She smiled. She had her memories.

"Mount Olive College also has an honors program which challenges us. Here we get a taste of admissions when we get to invite students to come here. We also have the opportunity to go to many of the dinners where we learn about the Free Will Baptist denomination. We are enriched as students by this opportunity," she declared.



Miss Julie Wetherington, sophomore at Mount Olive College and member of the Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County, spoke at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"On behalf of all the students here at Mount Olive College and especially the Free Will Baptists, we challenge you *not only to give but also to receive something*. Come to our campus as often as you can. Experience the opportunity that you have given to us," she concluded.

Dr. Pepper Worthington, Editor Mount Olive College Press

"Tonight it is my joy to introduce to you the 1995-96 Bridge Builders' book gift and its author: you are in for a treat. You are already familiar with past Bridge Builders' book gifts: Barbara Anderson Mapp's *Just Like Grandma Used To*

Make; Carol Hayman's *Images and Echoes: Beaufort-by-the-Sea*; John and Jeanne Mays's *Worth Remembering*. The Mount Olive College Press has selected Rose Lawton Jones's children's book, *A Bird's Eye-View* for the 1995-96 Bridge Builders' book gift. Funds to pay for these Bridge Builders' book gifts have come from my father, W. Roy Poole," said Dr. Worthington.



The 1995-96 Bridge Builders book gift is Rose Lawton Jones's children story, *A Bird's-Eye View*. The book gift was announced at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner in Murphy Center at Mount Olive College. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"When I sat on my father's lap this past summer, ran my hand through his hair and told him he was the most wonderful father in the entire world, he mumbled, 'Uh oooh. What do you want?' I told him that I wanted funds for Rose Lawton Jones's book to be the 1995-96 Bridge Builders gift. How can he refuse?" she asked with a smile.

"The MOC Press has tried to offer a variety to you over the past three years, because our imprint at the Press is to open as many avenues for creativity as possible. Much of our work is printed by the Free Will Baptist Press under the leadership of Tracy McCoy, Robert Hadden, and Cliff Gray," said Dr. Worthington.

"This year's gift to you is a children's book — a wonderful story of Mr. Woodpecker and his family. I fell in love with Rose Lawton Jones's book because of Mr. Woodpecker — a strong father figure among the animals that race, wrestle, and frolic in her story. In a time in our history when families are disintegrating, many children are growing up without strong father figures. As I read Rose's book, I felt a child would be cheered,

healed, even made hopeful by the presence of Mr. Woodpecker and his fluttering caretaking. I also loved the way she drew the eye of the reader to the animals, so that we would see *the world from a bird's eye view*," she explained.

"Rose and I met at Burger King in Kinston. We talked. Her story was her secret world, her private creation, her creative joy. She said to me over hot coffee, 'You know, I have spent my entire life taking care of the needs of other people. I have taken care of my husband. I have taken care of my children. I have taken care of my house. But this book — this book is for *me*. This is really the first thing I have ever done for myself.'"

"We talked more. Rose had sketches of the animals, so we plotted, planned, pursued ideas about these pen and ink sketches she had done. Why not use them as sidebars and let children color the animals? Then children will *participate* in the world of these wonderful back yard creatures. So Rose sketched and her book now has an array of animals for children to color," Dr. Worthington said.



New Mount Olive College Press author, Rose Lawton Jones (fourth in front line), celebrates with her family at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner that her children's book *A Bird's-Eye View*, has been chosen as the 1995-96 book gift to Bridge Builders for Mount Olive College. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"The MOC Press exists to give people a chance to have their voices be heard. Rose asked, 'Wonder if anyone will read it?'"

"I replied, 'Don't know. But let's do it anyway. It's worth reading. Express your voice.'"

"Then I thought: What if 20 children read it and find themselves looking at the animals in their own back yard? Rose Jones's book is worth doing just for that.

Her voice deserves to be heard," Dr. Worthington stressed.

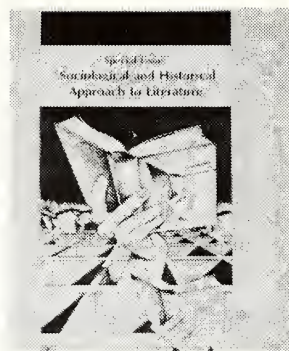
"Tonight Rose Lawton Jones' book is a reality. Her voice will be heard. Whether the book flies from the boundaries of our eastern wing of history for many children is not the focus. The focus is to share our voices where we live. The focus is to dig deep within ourselves where we live and draw out the health, joy, and wonder of our own stories. Voltaire's *Candide* went all the way around the world to see if he could solve the problems of the world, and he finally came back home to discover that all he could really take care of was his own garden in his own back yard," she said.

"The MOC Press wishes to give each 1995-96 Bridge Builder this children's book as a gift. You are the ones who dig deep into your own pockets to keep our College a reality. You believe in our efforts here to keep alive the Christian liberal arts tradition of focusing upon the whole person. For your financial and spiritual support, we say thank you," she declared.

"In closing, I would like to recognize our children's book author and her family: Donald Jones, Audrey Jones, Rose Jones, Judy Jones, John Jones, Jr., Sam Jones, Lou Lichthardt, John Lichthardt, Donna Sutton, Mike Sutton, Michael Sutton, Rachel Sutton." The family stood and applause erupted.

"I would also like to recognize my guest tonight, Michael Warning. Many of you know Michael from his preaching in several Free Will Baptist churches. He himself is wonderfully talented as he teaches art history, ethics, Biblical thought for Wesleyan College in its extension program at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. He also has done some woodcuts and pen and ink sketches for the soon to be released *Mount Olive Review: A Sociological/Historical Approach to Literature*. This journal is a joint effort of the labor of love between the MOC Press and the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden under the able production staff and editorial leadership of Tracy McCoy," said Dr. Worthington.

"Again I thank all of you here tonight for your generous gifts, loving spirits, and Christian dedication in making ideas become realities," she concluded.



The 1996-97 Bridge Builder book gift will be the new issue of the *Mount Olive Review: A Sociological and Historical Approach to Literature*, printed by the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden under the leadership of Tracy McCoy, Robert Hadden, and Cliff Gray. (Photo by Pepper Worthington, Cover designed by Jerry Goff)

Introduction of Speaker

"The list of all the Bridge Builders last year totals 1,414," announced Mrs. Jean Ackiss. "Last year we raised over \$319,000 to support Mount Olive College. Tonight we celebrate. We are here to say thank you. I want to thank our food service staff and all the Ambassadors who helped make this meal the wonderful meal it has been," she said proudly.

Everyone clapped.

The Ambassadors and food service staff stood in a line at the back wall all smiled with the words of appreciation and applause.



The Ambassadors and food service staff lined up at the back wall to be acknowledged for their hard work and cuisine talent in making the 1995-96 Bridge Builders meal one of the best ever. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"As you leave tonight," continued Mrs. Ackiss, "the new Mount Olive College Press publication, *The Crisis of Leadership*, will be available for you to purchase. There will be other items on the table, annual gift envelopes, generous cards to develop our library," she announced.

"Our new president," continued Mrs. Ackiss, "is no stranger to Mount Olive nor to Mount Olive College. He was born in the town of Mount Olive. He attended grammar school at the elementary school which was once our downtown campus," she revealed.



Dr. Pepper Worthington (left) congratulates Dr. De Wayne Eakes (right) for his book, *The Crisis of Leadership*, written especially for Original Free Will Baptists. His book was available at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner.

"Our new president has served as an Elder in all three areas he has lived," she continued. "He has been an Elder in Greenville, Boone, and Mount Olive. An Elder is a spiritual leader of the church. Our new president is also a lay preacher," she added.

"Our speaker tonight married Marvis Edwards of Goldsboro. They have three children, two sons and one daughter. He has earned the high esteem, not only of his family, but also of his colleagues. I asked several colleagues to describe our speaker with one word. These were the various descriptions: *approachable, a gentleman, scholar, positive, one who takes the highest road, a man of integrity, a Christian gentleman*," she reported.

"I looked up the word *gentleman* in the dictionary," continued Mrs. Ackiss. "I found out that a gentleman is a man whose conduct conforms to a high moral standard. This is certainly true of our new president. His vision of what Mount Olive College can become and has be-

come is inspirational," she said.



Mrs. Jean Ackiss, director of Church Support for Mount Olive College, introduced the speaker for the 1995-96 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

Address: Where There is Vision
Dr. J. William Byrd, President
Mount Olive College

"Today does seem to be a honeymoon," said Dr. J. William Byrd as he began his address. "Today is a good day in the life of Mount Olive College. Today is a good day in my life. I take great pride in being part of Mount Olive College, in having this opportunity to influence the direction our College will follow. The direction has been fixed by many years of the dedicated leadership of Dr. W. Burkett Raper. He has been dedicated to keep the high road. So shall I," said Dr. Byrd.



Dr. J. William Byrd's address "Where There is Vision," was delivered at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

"I would like to turn to Proverbs 29:18 to read — 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Allow me to paraphrase

this verse to read — 'Where there is no vision, the College perishes.' But also let me add — 'Where there *is* vision, the College thrives.' The vision, let me stress, must have a mission," he declared.

"Let me tell you a story," he continued. "It was a dark night and a light glowed in the horizon. As one man made his way to the light, he discovered that he was on a collision course with another man. The first man sent out the message, 'It seems you and I are on the same course. You correct your course 10 degrees to the south.' The other man sent back the message, 'You change your course 10 degrees to the north.' The first man replied in an angry message, 'This is Admiral Jones and we are on the same collision course. Change your course 10 degrees to the south.' A reply quickly followed, 'This is Seaman Smith. Change your course 10 degrees to the north.' Infuriated, the first man sent out the message, 'I am Admiral Jones. I'm in command of a battleship.' Seaman Smith replied, 'I am Seaman Smith and I am in command of a lighthouse.'"

The audience laughed.

"You see," explained Dr. Byrd, "a vision without a mission can be a dangerous thing. Our mission at Mount Olive College is in context of the church, so our College is a ministry. The ministry of Mount Olive College is one of the ministries of the Free Will Baptist church," he stressed.

"Permit me to talk about vision in two contexts," he continued. "What is happening at Mount Olive College and what do we expect to happen in the near future?" he asked.

"Our ministry is centered around *truth* and *stewardship*. I invite you to think with me about what 1 Timothy 4:4 might mean: 'Nothing is to be refused if received with thanksgiving.' Paul was talking here about dietary restrictions imposed by the Jews. But every creature of God is good. We don't have to pick and choose among things God has created. Paul is saying that *all of God's creation is good*. An important part of God's creation is truth," said Dr. Byrd.

"All of God's truth is good," he explained. "It is not up to us to choose among the truths. We must pass all of God's truth to the new generation to follow. We have a mandate to teach the

truth and to teach all of the truth. Our curriculum should reflect this. Our discourse should reflect all of God's truth. Our cultural mandate is to teach science, creation, personhood, values. We must teach about all peoples of the world to understand them. Our mandate is to understand other cultures. How do we do that?" he asked.

"We must integrate all of the truth we know," he explained. "We must develop an integration process. Our stewardship and ministry is not just to raise money. Stewardship goes way beyond that. We must be stewards of all of God's creation. We have a responsibility for presiding over God's creation. We at the College must see our ministry as one in which we contribute to the development of the human intellect. This is the ministry of higher education. The first part of our vision must grow out of our mission to develop the human intellect, to value all of God's creation, to seek all of God's truth," he said.

"The second part of our mission is to enlarge our tent as Isaiah reminds us," he continued. "That's what we are about now — *enlarging our tent*. We want to develop more and more educational opportunities for more and more people. To do this we have expanded our program to Goldsboro, New Bern (1993), and Wilmington (1995). We have expanded our tent," he declared.

"To be true to our mission to be stewards to all given to us, we must try to reach groups of people who have fallen through the cracks. Many adults have fallen by the wayside somewhere along the way. We must expand our tent," he reiterated.

"We have expanded our tent to meet the needs of adults. We have an evening college on the main campus, a day program for traditional college students on the main campus, an evening program at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, one in New Bern, one in Wilmington. We are expanding our opportunities to other groups of people, finding ways of projecting our services to them. We must be prepared to help those who have fallen through the cracks," he announced.

With intensity, Dr. Byrd added, "A mandatory part of our new college is that we build for now and for the future. We

must expand our tent so that we offer opportunities *geographically*." We cannot expect everyone to come to us," he declared.

"We must also expand in terms of the time of day. Night classes make it possible for non-traditional students to attend our College. We also must expand our curriculum. We are working hard to do this. Our management program in organizational development is growing. We have initiated a criminal justice program. We are developing outreach in areas of religion and music. We are striving to put in place by next year a program in education. This program will involve an innovative partnership," he announced.

"We are expanding our tent through the increase of students. This fall semester we have reached 1,087 full-time equivalent students in all our programs, both on and off campus. I am confident in our enrollment growth, thanks to our admissions staff. This fall we have a 12.25 percent increase over last year," he reported.

Great applause followed.

"Let me add," he replied cautiously, "I do not expect that enrollment magnitude every year. But I do expect to continue to find new ways to define and to deliver educational opportunities. What do we need to do now?" he asked.

"First," he said, "we need to break out from our blinders. We need greater access. We need cost containment. Let me say that we have the will to solve those problems as we try to make an educational opportunity available to more and more people. You are the bridge builders here tonight. You are the people committed to building bridges. We are grateful to you for all that you have done. This is a good day for Mount Olive College. This is a good day for me," he concluded.

**Lee Honeycutt, Freshman
Robert's Grove FWB Church
Sampson County**

Music once again became an expression of faith as Mr. Lee Honeycutt sang "Somebody is Praying." His voice, facial joy, delight in the lyrics made this

song an inspirational highlight of the evening. He sang of the mighty hands guiding him from what he can't see. He sang, "Lord, I believe somebody's praying for me."



Mr. Lee Honeycutt, freshman at Mount Olive College, is from Robert's Grove FWB Church, Sampson County. His song, "Somebody's Praying," was an inspirational highlight at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

**The Rev. Billy Yawn, Pastor
Union Grove FWB Church
Wayne County**

The Rev. Billy Yawn gave the benediction. "Thank you, Lord, for the meal," he prayed. "Thank you for the message. Thank you for the ministry of Mount Olive College and all of our ministries. Take all of these and make them meaningful. Help us to remember that life is a chance to give and not necessarily one designed to get."

**Celebration In Murphy Center
After the Formal Events of the
1995-96 Bridge Builders
Appreciation Dinner**



Mrs. Lancaster (left) enjoys a vigorous hug from W. Roy Poole (center) as does Barbara Harrison

(right). W. Roy Poole built and donated the Administration Building to Mount Olive College. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)



Dr. Opey Jeanes (right), director of the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base program, greets Mr. Jason N. Myers, president of the Student Government Association of Mount Olive College. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)



Dr. J. William Bryd, the new president of Mount Olive College, and Miss Julie Wetherington, a sophomore at MOC, share a good laugh at the celebrative 1995-96 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)



Mrs. Willis Brown (left) chats with MOC Press author Rose Lawton Jones (right) about the children who might read the story of Mr. Woodpecker in *A Bird's-Eye View*. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

The New Bible Bowl Guidelines

BIBLE BOWL COMMITTEE

The Bible Bowl Committee will be established by the OFWB Youth Director with the approval of the Woman's Auxiliary President. The committee will serve for a minimum of two years. When possible, the committee will consist of one representative from each district. Each representative will serve as an authority for their corresponding district.

The committee's concentration will be to oversee the organization of Bible Bowl. The tasks will include topic selection, rule review, study guide preparation, question selection, and staffing district or state competitions.

The Bible Bowl Chairman will oversee and coordinate with the committee, judges, moderator, questions, sound systems, name plates, and additional staff for the playoff.

BIBLE BOWL SET-UP

Each match will have a moderator, a timekeeper, 2 scorekeepers (one visual and one privately), and 3 judges. The team will be a V-arrangement behind tables with the moderator facing the teams. One alternate and coach will be positioned behind the teams. Additional alternates will be sequestered in a designated area or seated with the alternate depending on space available. Non-competing teams will be assigned to a designate depending on space available. Non-competing teams will be assigned to a designated area until competition time. The judges, timekeeper, and one of the scorekeepers will be facing the teams. The visual scorekeeper should be to the side of the teams, depending on the space available.

The competitions will be played in double elimination tournament form. The winner of a match is the team that has the most points at the end of round three. The winner of a level of competition is the team that has advanced throughout that level and not the one obtaining the greatest number of points throughout that level. Only the winner of the district competition will advance to the State competition.

On the day of the competition, team captains will draw for seating positions. If there are an odd number of teams, a bye will be given. The last Saturday in April is set aside prior to the State Youth Convention for Bible Bowl to be played including the championship game. An exhibition game between AFC Champion and the YFA Champion will be played at the OFWB State Youth Convention for everyone.

Paper, pens or pencils may not be used in Round 1 & 2 of the Bible Bowl competition. They will be given paper for Round 3 multiple part questions (not memory verses) to help organize thoughts and answers. In addition, during the tie-breaker round, paper and pencils may be used only for the purpose of submitting a written answer to the judges. Paper, pens or pencils will be provided when needed.

QUALIFICATIONS

An AFC team will consist of a least 3 players, ages 9–12 and alternates at the coach's discretion. A YFA team will consist of at least 3 players, ages 13–19, and alternates at the coach's discretion.

A player must be on the correct team for his/her age group; i.e., an AFC cannot be on a YFA team. A player should compete on the appropriate team at his/her district competition and remain on that team for any subsequent competitions. All players on an AFC/YFA should be members of the same church youth organization. The person in the first chair each team is considered to be the team's captain.

The Bridge Builder

*An old man, traveling
a lone highway
Came at the evening cold and gray
To a chasm deep and wide.*

*The old man crossed in the
twilight dim,
For the sullen stream held
no fears for him,
But he turned when he
reached the other side,
And builded a bridge to
span the tide.*

*"Old man," cried a fellow
pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength
with building here;
Your journey will end with
the ending day,
And you never again
will pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm
deep and wide,
Why build you a bridge
at eventide?"*

*And the builder raised his old
gray head;
"Good friend, on the path I have
come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet will
pass this way.
This stream which has been as
naught to me,
To that fair-haired boy
may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the
twilight dim—
Good friend, I am building
this bridge for him."*

W. A. Dromgoole

QUESTIONS

There are 3 rounds to a match. A round is completed when all persons on each team have been asked a question. A team may enter their alternate between rounds and change the order of their seating positions. The time between rounds will not exceed one minute. In the event of a tie at the conclusion of the 3 rounds, an additional round will be needed. (See scoring for additional details.) Teams may make any changes at this time.

Questions are asked to one person on one team. The questions rotate from team to team and from person on a team. Questions are asked in the following rotation (this constitutes a round):

Team A, Person 1 — Team B, Person 1

Team A, Person 2 — Team B, Person 2

Team A, Person 3 — Team B, Person 3

There will be 6 questions asked per round; a total of 18 questions per match. Since questions will be previously written by a qualified person, no questions will be thrown out during competition.

A full 10 seconds will be given for the team member to begin the answer in rounds. If the question is not answered correctly within the time limit, no points will be awarded. Only one answer will be allowed. The first response will be considered the answer. For example: "I don't know" is considered an answer. During the first three rounds, an answer should be accepted as long as it clearly begins before time expires. On tie-breakers the person questioned must have started to write the answer when time is called. The moderator can use their own judgment about calling time for those who are hesitant in finishing a question that has been asked.

- For **memory verses**, the participant should compose his/her answer before reciting it for the judges. Memory verses are incorrect if any word is added or deleted. Time will be called by the moderator should the participant hesitate extensively.
- With **explanation or interpretation questions**, sufficient answer should be given to compel to the judges the participant's knowledge of the subject matter.
- To receive total/half points (see scoring) for **multiple part questions**, the participant must answer each part correctly. If one part of the question is incorrect, then the total question is incorrect. For the opposing team to receive half points, they must answer each part correctly.

During round 1 and 2, only the person questioned can answer and there is no consulting among team members. During round 3 and on tie-breakers, only the person questioned can answer, but consulting will be allowed among members of the same team. Consulting may begin among team members asked the question only after the question has been read. The opposing team must wait to consult until the question is directed to them by the moderator. When a participant is given a memory

verse, there can be conferring with team member. **ONLY** the participant can then quote the memory verse, with no whispering (helping) from the other team members.

Team members may not ask to have a question repeated. The judges may, at their discretion, ask the moderator to repeat for clarification. (Ex.: distraction from audience, baby crying, etc.). In round 3 multiple part only, the moderator will repeat the question after 10 seconds, to receive the response of each part of the question from the team. The moderator will accept all answers to each part before declaring the entire question right or wrong. The same question will be repeated for the other team to receive the answers for each part of the question after the 10 second conferring has expired.

Judges decide whether an answer is right or wrong. Their decision is final. Judges may disqualify teams or individual team members for unsportsmanlike conduct, cheating or any violation of the rules. A disqualified team member may be replaced by an alternate. (ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.)

The moderator and judges may dismiss coach(es) and visitors should unsportsmanlike conduct, challenging, or other disruptions occur. A warning could be given by the judges should they desire that action for coaches, team members, and visitors.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS & SCORING

Questions for each round will vary in difficulty. Questions in round one will be closed ended or direct answers. Round two questions will be interpretation or explanation answers. Round three questions will consist of memory verses or open-ended, deep thought, and multiple parts. For example:

- Round 1: According to Luke 2:42, give the age Jesus did not return home with his parents.
- Round 2: Analyze the following statement and indicate the speaker. "Thou son of the perverse rebellious women, do not I know that thou has chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?" (1 Samuel 20:30).
- Round 3: Recite John 3:16 or
- Round 3: Reference Genesis 16 & 17
 - a) Name Ishmael and Isaac's parents
 - b) Give the father's age at the birth of each son.
 - c) What was the occupation of Ishmael's mother?
- Round 4: (Bonus, if needed) Explain the situation that alluded to Jesus saying "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me" (Matt 17:17).

Scoring for questions is as follows:

- 10 points per correct answer in round one;
- 20 points per correct answer in round two;
- 30 points per correct answer in round three.

After a question has been answered incorrectly, or not

at all, by the person questioned, the next person on the opposing team will have a chance to answer the question correctly for one-half the points of the original question (without the question being repeated in rounds 1 & 2).

Should Team A, Person 1 incorrectly answer the question, then Team B, Person 1 will have the opportunity to answer the question for half the points. And vice versa when Team B, Person 1 is given the next original question.

If teams are tied after round three, then an additional round will be needed. At least one minute will be given for any changes. The same question will be asked of Team A, Person 1 and Team B, Person 1. After consultation among team member, they will submit a written answer to the judges. In tie-breakers the spellings must be accurate enough for the judges to determine the answer. If only one person is correct, then that team wins. If both are correct or incorrect, continue to Person 2 with a new question and so on until one person is correct while the other is incorrect.

CHALLENGES

Challenges will be accepted if they follow the procedure below:

Only competing team members on the teams involved in the current match (1 of 6 players) may challenge. Challenges must be made before the start of a new question. Questions, answers, and execution of the procedures may be challenged.

A player will indicate that a challenge is desired (by standing). Each team will be given 30 seconds to confer before presenting their position to the judges. A challenge can be resolved or dismissed should the team that initiates the challenge feels that they made an inappropriate decision and aren't interested in pursuing the challenge. Only the players at the table will be allowed to confer. Coaches, alternates, and parents will not be allowed to give suggestions or ideas to their players.

The player that initiated the challenge along with a member of the opposing team will approach the judge's table. The challenger states the case concisely and the opposing team member has the option to respond. Team members are dismissed. A Bible Bowl authority will be on hand to assist the judges in decision making. Judges will consult and pronounce a decision to the audience. The decision of the judges is final. Judges may give an explanation but is not required for a team or audience.

Study Guide for Bible Bowl

The Life and Teachings of Paul

Bible Bowl '96 will focus on the Life & Teachings of Paul. The focus begins with the Stoning of Stephen through the last account of Paul in Rome. Scripture and

subject headings are given for your convenience. Familiarize your team with all people, places, and events occurring within the specified Scripture text, which can be used for questions. The purpose of Bible Bowl '96 is to have a thorough and complete understanding of Paul. In addition, the sequence of events within Paul's life is vital information.

The memory verses given are found within the teachings of Paul. The AFC are required to know the first twelve. The YFA are required to know all twenty. It is possible for questions to be asked about the verse as well as required recitation of the verse. Reciting the verse can only occur in the third round, but the questions about the verse can occur in any round.

Stoning of Stephen Acts 7:54-60	Mars Hill Acts 17:22-34
Persecution of the Church Acts 8:1-4	In Corinth Acts 18:1-28
Saul's Conversion Acts 9:1-18	Nazarite Vow Numbers 6:2-15
Saul Testifies Acts 9:19-22	In Ephesus Acts 19:1-22
Saul Escapes Acts 9:23-31	Demetrius Causes Trouble Acts 19:23-41
First Missionary Journey Acts 13:1-12	Eutychus Raised Acts 20:6-12
Paul & Barnabas at Antioch Acts 13:14-52	Warnings Acts 21:1-14
In Iconium Acts 14:1-7	Last Journey in Jerusalem Acts 21:15-26
In Lystra & Derbe Acts 14:8-28	Paul's Arrest Acts 21:27-40
Debate with Peter Acts 15:1-35	Recalling his Conversion Acts 22:1-16
Timothy Acts 16:1-7	Before the Sanhedrin Acts 22:30; 23:11
Paul's Vision Acts 16:8-10	Plot to Kill Paul Acts 23:12-22
Lydia's Conversion Acts 16:11-15	Trial before Felix Acts 23:23; 24:27
Paul & Silas Imprisonment Acts 16:16-38	Trial before Festus Acts 25:1-9
Uproar in Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9	King Agrippa Acts 25:13; 26:11
In Berea Acts 17:10-15	His Testimony Acts 26:12-32
In Athens Acts 17:16-21	Paul Sails to Rome Acts 27:1-12

Storm at Sea
Acts 27:13-38

Shipwreck
Acts 27:39-44

Safely at Melita (Malta)
Acts 28:1-10

Paul's Final Days at Rome
Acts 28:11-31

Teaching on Armor of God
Ephesians 6:10-20

Memory Verses Cont...

Romans 10:13
Romans 12:1-2
Galatians 5:22-23
Ephesians 2:8-10
Philippians 4:13
2 Timothy 2:15

Memory Verses for Bible Bowl

Each team member is required to know the complete verse according to the King James Version.

AFC & YFA

Romans 3:10
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:4
Romans 8:28
Romans 8:31
Romans 10:9-10

YFA ONLY

1 Corinthians 3:16-17
1 Corinthians 6:19-20
1 Corinthians 10:13
2 Corinthians 5:8
2 Corinthians 5:17
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Galatians 5:25
2 Timothy 3:16-17



Happy New Year

From
The FWB Press Foundation, Inc.
and
The Bible and Bookstores
of
Ayden, Kinston
New Bern and Wilson



The Members of
Reedy Branch
Free Will Baptist Church
cordially invite you
to a retirement reception
honoring
Reverend Willis Whichard Wilson
and
Mrs. Betty Jean Wilson
for thirty-two years
of ministry to our church
and forty-one years
of ministry to our denomination
Sunday, January 28, 1995
Program 3:00 pm
Reception 4:00 – 6:00 pm
J. H. Rose High School
Performing Arts Center



MT. ZION HONORS PASTOR OF 33 YEARS

We at Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church in the Albermarle Conference, Roper, North Carolina, wish to honor our pastor of over 33 years. The Reverend W.C. (Charlie) Overton, recently resigned because of illness. Two words best describes his ministry at Mt. Zion — love and faithfulness.

He truly loved his flock and was very dependable in church and conference leadership.

We publicly thank Brother Overton for all he has done.

Mae Oliver
Roper, NC

SIDNEY ORDAINS NEW DEACONS

Sidney Free Will Baptist Church recently ordained three new deacons to the church's Deacon Board. In a Special Ordination Service, the Rev. Paul Grubbs, pastor, spoke on the character and responsibility of deacons according to Scripture. The new deacons are pictured with their wives (from left to right) Jimmy and Kathy Brinn, Steve and Lucinda Poole, and Zinkie and Don Jones.



You're Invited

Praise Him Concert
Saturday, January 13, 1996
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Ayden Auditorium (old middle school)

Those involved:

The Crawford Family – from Kinston
The Sonlight Singers – from Black Jack
Vision (praise team) – from Mt. Olive College
Miss Kate Nichols – from Goldsboro
Evangelist Glenn Mills

Comments:

This will be a evening of singing and praise to our Heavenly Father. There will be a message by Evangelist Glenn Mills that will offer praise to God while challenging, uplifting, and encouraging the hearts of those present.

Admission:

Love Offering

For more information contact:

Glenn Mills
919-735-3916, work or 919-734-9314, home



Membership Meeting Scheduled

The annual meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 1996 at Lees Chapel FWB Church in Dunn, North Carolina. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am. All those representing memberships are encouraged to attend.

Kay Jones of Ayden, NC,
would like to thank each of you who
remembered her during this
past Holiday Season.

Pastor Needed

Reedy Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pitt County, is searching for a full-time pastor. If interested, send resume to Blanie Moye, 203 Allendale Drive, Greenville, NC 27834 or phone 919-756-5739.

Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Spring Hope, NC is searching for a part-time pastor. If interested send resume to Thelma Phillips, Route 3, Box 462, Spring Hope, NC 27882 or phone 919-478-5916

Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pamlico County is seeking a new pastor. Please send resume to either of the following:

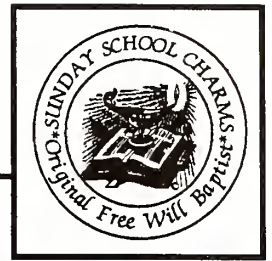
Reginald Caroon
Box 106 Horne Road
Lowland, NC

Katie S. Newton
PO Box 96
Vandemere, NC 28587

Minister Available

H. P. Norman is available for supply and interim part-time and full-time pastoral work. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 723, Farmville, NC 27828 or phone 919-753-3385

Charles Owen is available for supply/revival. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 93, Fountain, NC 27829, or phone 919-641-6931



A Spiritual Diet

The New Year is a time of renewal with new beginnings, new starts and new resolutions. One of the most popular resolutions is “going on a diet.” It seems that people are becoming more health conscious and they are determined to lose a few pounds. If this is your resolution — GO FOR IT! Nutritionists say that the “best diet is a balanced diet.” However, when it comes to a spiritual diet, we need more CREAM than LEAN!

John had something interesting to say in his third epistle verse 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that you mayest prosper and be in Health, even as thy Soul Prospereth.” Evidently John saw the connection between physical health and spiritual health.

Here is a SPIRITUAL DIET for 1996:

1. HEAVY amounts of study of the Scriptures.
2 Timothy 2:15
2. HUGE portions of Prayer.
1 Thessalonians 5:17
3. HYPER-ACTIVITY in Stewardship.
1 Peter 4:10
4. HIGH-LEVEL observance of Church Attendance.
Hebrews 10:25
5. HEFTY amounts of a HEARTY Witnessing.
Matthew 28:19–20

So don't hedge, hold back, or hesitate on this diet.
Honor Him and He'll Hale Happiness...
that will make us...
Humble Humans Hailing Holiness.

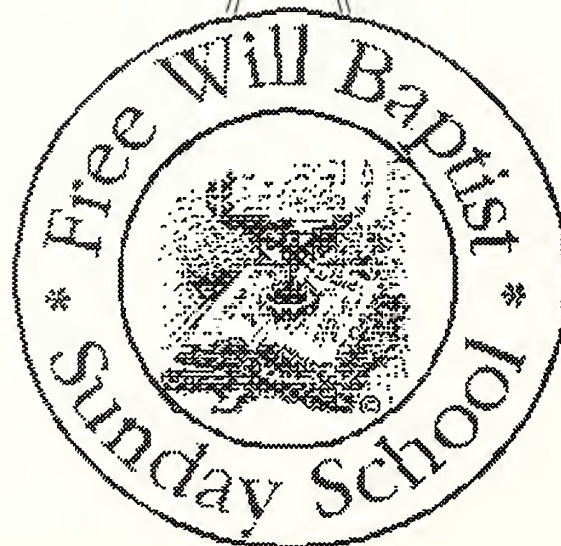
May you have a HEALTHY soul!
W. Michael Ledbetter, S. S. Board Member



Sunday School Extravaganza

Saturday, March 2, 1996

Everett Chapel
Original
Free Will Baptist Church
Clayton
North Carolina





Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

"BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW." (REVELATION 21:5)

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens

A New Beginning

We are never too old to want something new, and I believe God in His wisdom has designed every phase of life to be a new beginning.

Birth is the beginning of a new life outside the body of the mother. Learning to walk, entering school, graduation, learning to drive a car, going to college, securing a job, marriage and becoming parents — these are only a few of the new beginnings life brings to us. Of supreme importance is the new phase of life one experiences in becoming a Christian; Jesus called it being "born again."

When viewed positively, becoming a "Senior Citizen" is a new beginning. It is an opportunity to begin a new life, to establish new goals and to plan our future, regardless of how long or how short that future might be.

Our senior years are a bonus from God — extra time to do those things which many people never have an opportunity to do. Most people born on earth today will not reach the age we Americans call the senior years. In some nations, the average life expectancy is nearer forty than the seventy-five years we take for granted in this country. Our challenge is to make these extra years not simply an extension in time but to make them our best years. I believe that with proper planning and a Christian perspective our senior years can indeed be our Golden Years. How can we make them so?

The Golden Years

Our age and health are perimeters within which we have to live but these perimeters need not be foreboding restraints. Retirement need not mark the end of the productive phase of our life but an opportunity for more discretionary time to do what is important rather than always being driven by what is urgent. When we become senior citizens we enter a new phase in life, an opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities and the directions in which we are traveling.

We can take a leaf from athletics. Every coach begins a contest with a game plan, but the successful coach evaluates that plan as the game progresses, and in the light of the score and the time remaining, decides whether to change strategies. As senior citizens, we are called to give renewed consideration to our game plan for life.

In my case, after forty years as president of Mount Olive College, I chose to retire from this office not because I had achieved all my goals but in order to have time to do some other things that I thought were important.

I wanted more time to think and plan rather than always being consumed by structured responsibilities. While I enjoyed and found fulfillment in the administrative work of the college, the years made their mark upon my body. My health required that I evaluate what I could do if I remained in office over against what I might do if I were under less pressure from fixed duties and had more time for discretionary and creative activities. In essence, I wanted not to end my work but to have a new beginning.

New Opportunities

I accepted the request of the Board of Trustees to continue my services to the College in specialized areas, including resource development and the building of an endowment. Being free from administrative responsibilities provides more opportunity to work with friends of the college in establishing life-income investments and in estate planning. In these areas of work I am able to help people as well as advance the mission of the college. In addition, I have an interest in returning to a limited amount of teaching, on and off campus, in fields related to the ministry, the Christian faith and the work of the church.

With the awareness that I will spend the rest of my life as a senior citizen, I have a special interest in people who are in this stage of their lives. These people represent the fastest growing segment in our society — and in our church — and I feel a challenge to help provide a ministry to their special needs. The kind of needs I see include concerns associated with retirement, financial planning, health-related problems, changes in family relationships and attaining spiritual maturity for the final issues of life.

I also want an opportunity to write and I am now in the process of evaluating the priorities for this writing. Possible considerations include a history of Mount Olive College, the faith and work of Original Free Will Baptists, a devotional publication and a short biography.

Finally, I would like more time for personal renewal and

more time with my family. My wife and I were blessed with six children, but my work with the college severely limited my time at home. Now, however, our eight grandchildren represent a new beginning, a new opportunity.

While the past is filled with a treasury of memorable experiences, the future is filled with new and greater visions of what life can yet be and become. We are never too old for a new beginning. Is not immortality itself a new beginning.

W. Burkette Raper

At the Gate

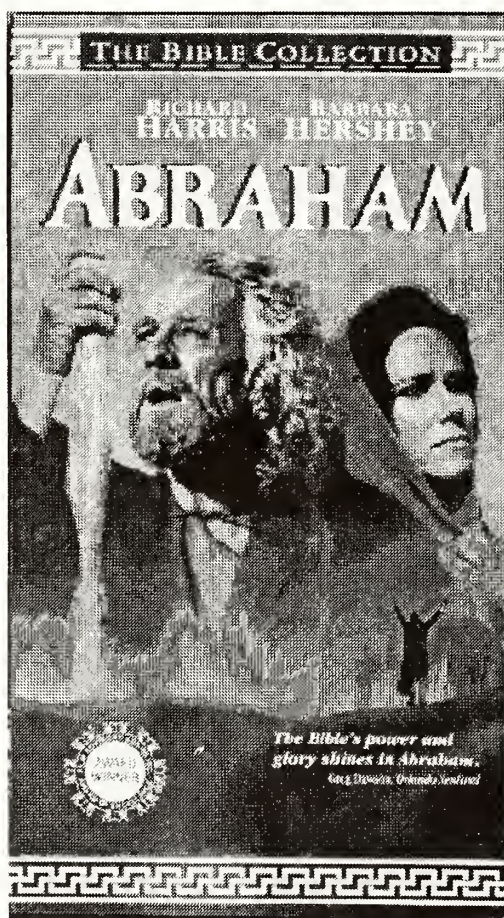
I said to the man at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!"

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way."

M. L. Haskins

Did You Know...

**AT YOUR LOCAL BIBLE AND BOOKSTORES YOU CAN
PURCHASE OR RENT VIDEO'S**



\$2.00 for Video's on an Adult level for one night

\$1.50 for Children Video's for one night

\$1.00 for each additional night

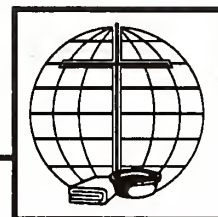
**These and other Video's are available for you just
come in and check out our selection**

Notes & Quotes

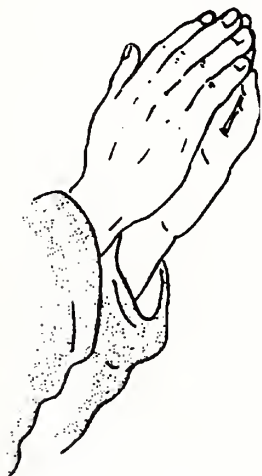
notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



THE CALL TO PRAYER



I have often heard that prayer is the answer. That's not quite true. God is the answer, and prayer is the means by which we are taught to communicate with Him.

As a denomination, we are asking everyone to pray to God for renewal. Please be sure to pray for renewal in your personal prayers and when you gather with others for worship and service.

When you pray, remember:

1. The "Call to Renewal"
2. Your pastor(s)
3. Your church
4. Denominational leaders
5. Lost people

THE WORK IS GOING WELL

I am enjoying my new work. It is a real joy to work with Original Free Will Baptists. I have especially enjoyed visiting in churches and with pastors. It is a privilege to join in worship and discover the common and unique practices of our churches. My calendar is quickly filling with appointments, but I would love to visit your church.

Since beginning my work as Executive Administrator, I have been able to

attend a number of meetings. The meetings have brought me up-to-date on many things that are happening throughout the denomination. Also, I have been impressed with the dedication that I see in the people who serve our denomination.

Planning and coordinating are major tasks. It is exciting to envision what God is going to do in and through us in the future. There is a whole world out there that needs the message and love that Original Free Will Baptists have to share. When we begin to grasp the vision, it becomes thrilling to plan its fulfillment.

We have lots of groups, boards, and committees. Working with them and coordinating our efforts will make us more effective. The task is too big for any

single group and too important for us to waste our resources. We must truly become partners in ministry.

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED

The Rev. W. C. (Charlie) Overton passed away on Saturday, December 16, 1995. His funeral service was conducted on Monday, December 18. Mr. Overton was a member of the Albemarle Conference, where he labored for many years.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Mrs. Overton and the family. Our brother, a faithful laborer, will truly be missed; however, we are thankful for the way in which God used Mr. Charlie.

Mission Statement of Original Free Will Baptists (Of the English General Baptist Heritage)

The mission of the people of God called Original Free Will Baptists is to glorify God, therefore, we strive to know Christ, build His Church, and make Him known to all people as we continue to seek His will. We believe this mission can be fulfilled through...

WORSHIPPING

"...worship the Father in spirit and truth..." (John 4:23).

GROWING

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18).

CARING

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

SHARING

"...freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8b [7-10]).

EQUIPPING

"For the equipping [perfecting] of the saints for the work of ministry..." (Ephesians 4:12a).

ATLANTA Bound

**We are planning a group trip
to the 1996 National Clergy Conference
at the Georgia Dome, in Atlanta, Georgia,
February 13-15, 1996.**

Original Free Will Baptist ministers, you are invited to join 70,000 of your fellow pastors in Atlanta, Georgia, February 13-15, 1996 to pray, network together, and celebrate our common call in Christ Jesus. It will be a unique occasion to gather corporately to worship our Heavenly Father and seek His face. Simply stated, we believe the Lord is raising up this special clergy conference for men to refresh pastors and to renew their hope and courage, that they might lead His Church into full-scale revival. While not ours to launch, (it is God's sovereign work) revival does require our cooperation through prayer, by pursuing biblical unity, and by continually giving glory to God alone for the fruit of His harvest. If we take these steps with humble hearts, we have every biblical and historical reason to expect Him to act.

Conference Highlights

Speakers include Dr. David Bryant, Dr. Tony Evans, Dr. Jack Hayford, Dr. Howard Hendricks, Dr. E. V. Hill, Max Lucado, Dr. John Maxwell, Dr. Joseph Stowell and Chuck Swindoll.

Designed to provide

Refreshment, restoration, and renewal

Equipping resources

A time of recommissioning as we move together into the 21st Century.

Our Plan

We have arranged for group travel by van and accommodations at the Ramada Inn. We will leave for Atlanta on Monday, February 12 and return to North Carolina on Friday February 16.

Conference Registration

\$95.00 per person.

Lodging

Double Occupancy for 4 nights— \$108.48

Quadruple Occupancy for 4 nights—\$54.24

Meals

Wednesday lunch, Thursday lunch and dinner are included in registration fee. All others are on your own.

Gas

The cost of gas will be divided equally by participants.

I Want To Go !!

☐ Enclosed is my deposit of \$100.00

☐ Call for availability of space

Name _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

☐ I am interested in a Scholarship if available.

☐ I am interested in a letter requesting help from my church.

Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

A New Year is rapidly approaching — a time for us to reflect, a time to start anew, and a time to rekindle friendships that seem to have dwindled away.

The dawning of a new year is similar to that of salvation, the story of the Prodigal Son, or countless other stories showing God's mercy reaching us with a chance to start over.

God's salvation is the reason we can face another day and to see so many things God has done for us. Salvation, a reason we can start over and get our lives straight with Christ.

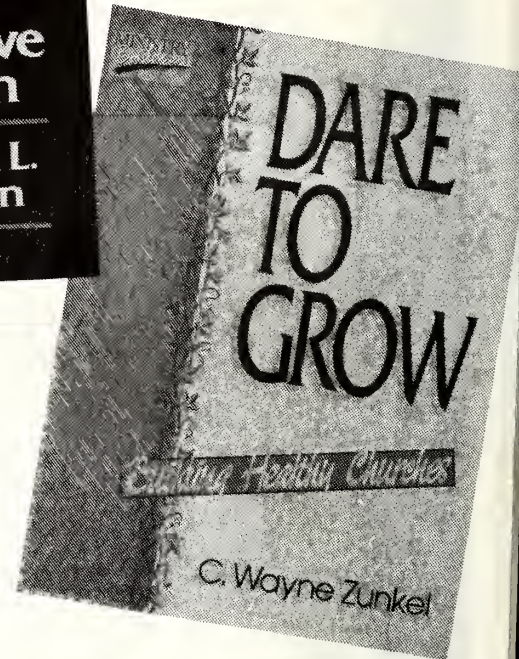
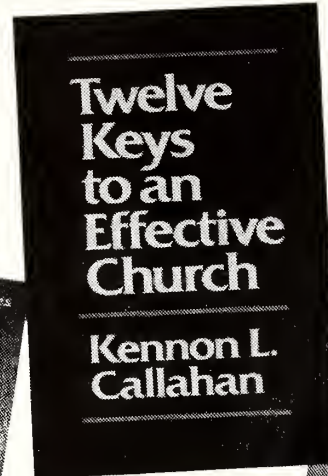
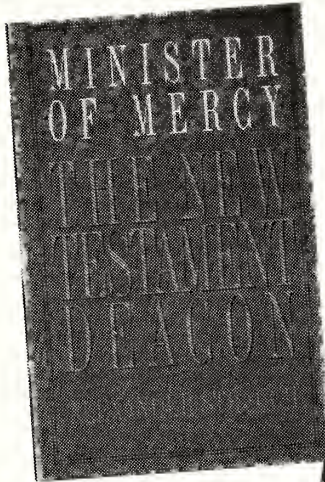
As 1996 approaches may it give us a chance to "start over" in any area of our life that might need it. Most importantly let us remember it is never too late to start anew with God.

I hope we all have a safe and Blessed New Year.

Tracy
☺



Leadership Resources for the Church



The Free Will Baptist

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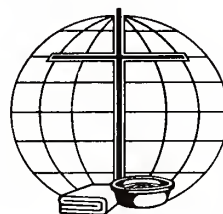
Church _____

Divinity Library
Duke University
Durham, N.C. 27708-0972

The Free Will Baptist

February 1996

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



A Proclamation By The President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

WHEREAS, throughout the history of Original Free Will Baptists, church members have relied on prayer for guidance, strength, and comfort; and

WHEREAS, prayer continues to provide direction and understanding to clergy, laymen; and

WHEREAS, by practicing prayer, we are given the opportunity for a closer relationship with our Creator; and

WHEREAS, although prayers are common during times of strife, it is also important to lift our hearts and minds in prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ray Wells, President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, do hereby proclaim February 23, 1996 as a Day of Prayer for Original Free Will Baptists.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists to be affixed this 9th day of January 1996.

Ray Wells

President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

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February • Volume 113 • Number 2

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NEXT MONTH

*March Is
Foreign Missions
Month*

*February Is
Christian Education
Month*

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

All subscriptions are payable in advance: one year, \$10.07; two years, \$18.55; four years, \$36.04 (including sales tax for North Carolina residents); residents of other states, \$9.50, \$17.50, and \$34, respectively (plus sales tax where it applies). **Every-Family Plan:** A 25 percent discount given when local churches send *The Free Will Baptist* to the home of every member; names and addresses to be provided by churches. Churches are billed quarterly. **Bundle Plan:** Lots of 25 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these. A 50 percent discount is offered under this plan.

Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday–Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Saturday.

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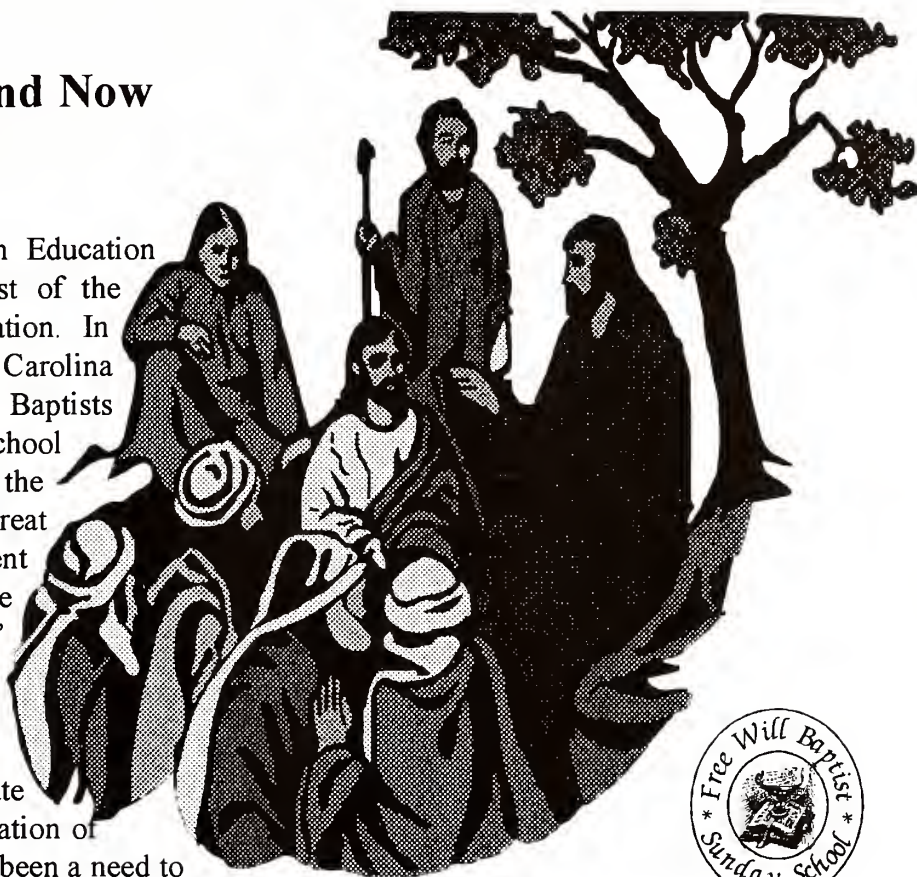
Sunday School: Then and Now

A Historical Sketch

Records indicate that Christian Education has always been an important interest of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. In 1921, just eight years after the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists was formed, the first State Sunday School Convention was created. From the start, the Sunday School Convention placed a great emphasis on the growth and development of the Christian education work of the denomination. A "bureau of institutes" was planned, which would hold annual training sessions for Christian education workers.

In 1939, four years after the State Convention joined the National Association of Free Will Baptists, there seems to have been a need to revive the statewide work of the Sunday School. The State Convention of Churches authorized the development of a State Sunday School Convention which would serve as an auxiliary of the denomination. For a few years in the 1940s, the president of the Sunday School Convention served on the Executive Committee of the State Convention of Churches. As before, the Sunday School Convention helped make available efficient training for those seeking to educate our people in the local Sunday Schools.

The growth and development of the State Sunday School Convention was due to the work of a lot of people. Two men who played a great role in the work of the Convention were the Reverend Raymond Sasser, who served as the first president of the Convention; and the Reverend L. E. Ballard, who served as Field Secretary for many years. Both of these men gave a large part of their lives to see that the Sunday School Convention had strong roots and a firm foundation upon which to grow.



The work of the Sunday School Convention continued on after the State Convention of Churches left the National Association in the early 1960s. The office of Field Secretary was reactivated in 1984 with the Reverend Bass Mitchell serving until late 1990. In 1989, the Sunday School Convention was dissolved and the Sunday School Board was established as a part of the Convention's work. In 1995, it was reestablished as one of the ten ministries. As long as the church exists, there will be a need for quality Christian education. Today the Sunday School Board stands ready and able to help meet the Christian education needs of our denomination and its churches by providing meaningful workshops and an annual Institute. The Board is planning to develop a Learning Resource Center, which hopefully will be located at the Headquarters in Ayden. The Board also is ready and willing to come to your church to serve in an advisory capacity.

FEBRUARY **is** **Christian Education Month**

UR the



of Christian Nurture

February 4 — **Pray** for a greater commitment to Sunday School.

February 11 — **Prepare** to meet the needs of ALL people.

February 18 — **Present** your Church to others.

February 25 — **Promote** your Church by reporting successes.

Extra Bulletin Inserts are Available



Original
Free Will Baptist
Sunday School Board



Sunday School Promotion Sunday February 25, 1996

Call in your Church's Successes

**Call and tell us your Sunday School Attendance and your Morning Worship Attendance.
Call between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.; Call your representative from the list below.**

Albemarle Conference — Paul Grubbs — (919) 964-4402
Cape Fear Conference — Mike Ledbetter — (910) 567-6419
Central Conference — Kathy Norman — (919) 321-3981
Eastern Conference — Elwood Hill — (919) 568-3207
Pee Dee Association — Kip Godwin — 800 748-3332
Piedmont Conference — David Atkins — (910) 643-5162
Western Conference — Frankie Baggett (919) 459-3818

A summary of the collected data will be provided at the
Sunday School Institute
March 2, 1996



Original
Free Will Baptist
Sunday School Board



Sunday School Extravaganza

The annual Sunday school institute will be held on Saturday, March 2, 1996, at Everett Chapel Church in Clayton, NC. The theme for this year's institute will be a "Sunday School Extravaganza." Registration will be held from 9:00–9:45 am. The Extravaganza itself will begin at 9:45 am with Miss Becky Jo Sumner delivering the *keynote* address. The activities will conclude at 3:00 pm. A sandwich style lunch will be provided by the church at a nominal fee. A nursery will be provided and staffed by competent young ladies from the local church. There will be activities and a workshop for all the young people who attend. A \$40.00 registration fee may be sent to the Sunday School Board at PO Box 39, Ayden NC, 28513 by February 23, 1996. You may also bring it to the institute if you wish.

We will be conducting 10 different workshops for adults which will be presented at three different times. This will give each person an opportunity to attend at least three workshops during the day. Try to decide which workshops you will attend before you come in order to balance your group and get the most out of the day's activities. These workshops will be presented on subjects relevant to the needs of our Sunday schools according to the results of the survey conducted at the institute of 1995. They will be led by knowledgeable persons in each area. We will be asking for input for future workshop topics and concerns about Sunday school literature.

We encourage you to advertise the institute and bring as many people as you can who are interested in seeing our church's Sunday school grow. We guarantee that you will not go home without having had an opportunity to think about your Sunday school and its effectiveness in today's world.

We will be welcoming representatives from David C. Cook and Standard Publishing Company. We look forward to seeing you with your delegation on March 2, 1996, at Everett Chapel in Clayton, NC at the **SUNDAY SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA.**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

ADULTS	
9:00 – 9:45	Registration
9:45 – 10:20	Opening Assembly and Speaker
10:30 – 11:20	Workshop Session 1
11:30 – 12:20	Workshop Session 2 or Lunch
12:30 – 1:20	Workshop Session 3 or Lunch
1:30 – 2:20	Workshop Session 4
2:30 – 3:00	Closing Assembly
YOUNG PEOPLE	
9:00 – 9:45	Registration
9:45 – 10:20	Open Assembly
10:30 – 11:20	Workshop Teens 13 and up Youth 4–12 Nursery 3 and under
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 2:30	Activity Time
2:30 – 3:00	Closing Assembly

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Leadership Styles	Teach Me to Pray
The Urgency of Christian Nurture	Planting Sunday Schools
Effective Teaching Techniques (General)	Organizing a Puppet Ministry
Duties/Responsibilities of S.S. Teachers/Officers	Using Audio-Visuals
Dynamic Teaching for Adult Classes	Managing Behavior Challenges
Teens – How to Present a Chalk Talk	
Youth – Self Esteem	

Sunday School Extravaganza

Saturday, March 2, 1996

Everett Chapel
Original
Free Will Baptist Church
Clayton
North Carolina





MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

THE SHARED CHALLENGE

In 1951, the Free Will Baptists in North Carolina embarked upon a ministry in higher education which soon found reality as Mount Olive College. During the fall semester of 1995, the college served 1,380 students which was the largest enrollment in its history, and in May of 1995, it graduated 234 persons which was also a record for the institution. May of 1996 should witness another record graduation number. This has been possible because the college has pressed to bring educational opportunity to more people, always striving to provide relevant programming at places where it is needed at times that it can be accessed. This has resulted in centers in Goldsboro, New Bern, and Wilmington which are directed and supported from the Main Campus in Mount Olive. Each site is an integral part of Mount Olive College and molded from the same precepts that have evolved the college as an institution of higher learning, higher standards and higher values. It is to these ends that the mission statement of the college, as delineated in the charter, calls the institution to task; and it is to these ends that Mount Olive college has entered into partnership with Free Will Baptists to provide a Christian ministry through higher education.

February is Christian Education Month, and it is a time to take note that the efforts began in 1951, and are moving ahead. It is a time to take note that the partnership between college and church is a healthy engagement in which both parties have much to contribute and many needs to be satisfied. The two must move forward together sharing a common bond of Christian commitment and embracing the future with a fervor that embodies excitement and a passion to serve the needs of God's people. Let us hold to those values which are fundamental to our being and seek change where new ways will provide a greater service to our people and our church. Together, we will be stronger than either can be pursuing a separate course. The challenge is to identify the pathways to more effective service and enhanced institutional health. Let us be bold in reaching for that which can "float all ships" and focus on those things that can strengthen the church and the college for service.



The college seeks your prayerful support of its activities and pledges its best effort in service to the church; help us to identify the means to greater service. For all that churches and individual church members do for the college, we are grateful. The college will continue to strive for new records where such supports the common purposes of service. We will also strive for higher standards and higher values in representing Christian commitment in our work. The church will surely share this aspiration in the pursuit of its work.

J. William Byrd
President

COMING EVENTS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

February

- 2 Transfer Visitation Day
- 5 Aurora Musicalis: Music in the Chapel Series; 7:30 pm, Rodgers Chapel. Free and open to the public.
- 17 Church Basketball Night; College Hall.
- 27 Vivian Harrison Memorial Lecture; begins 9:30 am, Rodgers Chapel. Guest Speaker: Dr. Alvin Reid.

March

- 4-8 Spring Break
- 18 Convocation of NBC # 15; 5 pm, New Bern Center. Free and open to the public.
- 25 Aurora Musicalis: Music in the Chapel Series; 7:30 pm. Rodgers Chapel. Free and open to the public.
- 29-30 Youth Rally; College Hall. Contact Frank Harrison at 658-2502.

SUNDAY BUFFET Mount Olive College

Lois K. Murphy
Regional Center
11:30 am to 2 pm
Every Sunday
\$6 Adults, \$3 Children

Let us know you're coming!
Call Gordon Wall at
658-2502

Serving Students with Consistence and Love Amid Progress and Change: Christian Education is Spotlighted during "the Love Month"

by Dianne B. Riley, Mount Olive College Director of Admissions

February is the "love" month. Christian education and Mount Olive College? How appropriate! When you love and care about someone, you want him or her to become the best that God has intended. Education can be a vehicle to that end.

More than 30 years ago, my pastor brought me to Mount Olive College to a Bible School workshop in an old school building downtown Mount Olive. I met people, learned new songs — that was my love — saw trees in little cans placed everywhere. However, greatest of all, a relationship began and little did I know than how it would change my life — and give me the opportunity to become an agent of change for others.

My ministry at Mount Olive College has led me to many people, not only in the Free Will Baptist church to which I am so very close but also to families across our nation and in other countries. I have the opportunity to share an educational experience that can be truly different — Higher Learning, Higher Standards, and High Values — not just an experience but a life!

You see, Admissions at Mount Olive College is quite different than most colleges and universities in our state. Admissions goes beyond a card, a computer and a letter with yes or no for acceptance. It goes beyond a piece of paper, a high school transcript, SAT/ACT scores. Admissions at Mount Olive College is people — people who were created by God, individuals special in their own way. We in Admissions get to know our people, we know strengths and weaknesses, we counsel to help make the best decisions. We help our students develop relationships during early visits that

will aid in the transition process.

Admissions reviews all new student files to see who qualifies for scholarships, Honors and Leaders. It is exciting to see students be rewarded for "higher learning" on the high school or community college level. Those students bring so very much to our campus. Nearly 30 percent of this year's freshman class were invited to participate in the Honors program.

Even more than all this, in Admissions we get to know families. We visit in homes, we even enjoy homemade goodies that come to us in care packages from parents. Just before Christmas, a huge box of oranges came from parents in Florida with a big thank you for the support we have given their daughter.

Admissions isn't a job; it's a part of the ministry of Mount Olive College.



Free Will Baptist students at Mount Olive College in front of Rodgers Chapel on the campus: (standing, Jason Young and Carla McLamb; kneeling, Regan Singleton, Julie Weatherington, and William Moore).

Gifts to Mount Olive College Through Annual Dinners Top \$5 Million Under the Leadership of Jean F. Ackiss

Since 1963, Original Free Will Baptist churches in counties across eastern North Carolina have contributed gifts support to Mount Olive College through a series of dinner events held in the fall of each year. In 1995, the churches' accumulated giving surpassed \$5 million.

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support for the college, has coordinated the annual dinner program since 1978. But Mrs. Ackiss insists that the credit for the program's success is due to the work of many volunteers who help coordinate each dinner event.

"Before you go into a county, you need to have as many chairmen and volunteers lined up as possible and permission to meet in the church or school where the dinner will be held," Mrs. Ackiss said. "Everybody works together in unity. Its success is not made possible just because of me. I just happen to be the coordinator of the activity. Its success depends upon many people giving their best efforts."

While the work of volunteers is invaluable to dinner program's success, annual reports reflect the influence of the program's coordinator. From 1963 to 1978, the college received gifts totaling \$1 million through the program. In the last 17 years, gift support through the dinners has added another \$4 million.

"I believe the program is successful, in part, because of continuity and respect," Mrs. Ackiss said. "Volunteers and church leaders see the same person working with them year after year to achieve their goal. It is most important that those of us at the college uphold integrity in all we do. When this is done, respect follows. The work of the college is more than a job, it is a 'ministry.' Integrity commands mutual respect from both parties — the college and the church."

Success is not guaranteed, she adds. "We all have to work hard for it. The money is not guaranteed each year. We

seek to keep the church constantly informed on the ministry of the college. Much prayer goes into this campaign."

Maintaining coordination of the dinner program is hard work that begins in August with planning sessions in each of the 17 counties that host these dinners, and it continues just prior to Thanksgiving. Each year, Mrs. Ackiss estimates that she drives 10,000 miles in support of the program. While the event nearest the college is the Wayne County dinner, hosted on the college campus, the event farthest from the college is the Washington-Martin-Tyrrell-Pasquotank dinner held near Plymouth. Other events are held as far away as Vandemere, Jacksonville, and Morehead City.

Mrs. Ackiss handles everything from the initial planning sessions to the dinners, working with committees to establish dinner dates and arranging for volunteer assistance.

Usually, a Free Will Baptist student helps during the dinner session. "The purpose of the dinners is to provide an opportunity for our people to share in this ministry which is helping people develop to their fullest potential. It is only natural that we make our students as visible as possible. After all, they are the reason for which the people are giving," she explained. For several years, a Free Will Baptist student has assisted her through the Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant by attending the dinners and sometimes giving a brief testimonial. Julie Wetherington, a sophomore from Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County, served as student assistant for the 1995 dinner season. Mrs. Ackiss believes that "it works for the good of the students and the church. When students meet people at the dinners and see how the people respond to this ministry, it develops a genuine appreciation for what the church is doing on their behalf. On the other hand, the church needs to see our students. After

all, when Free Will Baptists give, the very reason they give is to help the students."

Mrs. Ackiss notes that her work with the dinner program echoes another part of her life. Growing up in Craven County, (Vanceboro), she was the daughter of a tobacco farmer. "In the tobacco season, you had to give whatever it took until the work was done, however long that took. When the tobacco was ripe, you had to harvest it then and give it all the energy you had. I treat the dinners the same way."

She explains that while concentrating on the individual dinner events this year, she didn't realize immediately that the program had topped the \$5 million mark. While her goals are high, she adds, many of the individual gifts are small.

"We're raising nearly one-third of a million dollars each year now," she said. "When you get everything working on the lower end of fund raising, your large goals come together much more easily. Last year, one-third of our dinner gifts came from people giving less than \$100. That tells you how important small gifts can be. Most people cannot identify with giving \$300,000 but they can identify with giving \$1,000 or \$100, the goals of their own church or their own county."

"In each county I emphasize the goals within the local church and county rather than the total goal for the entire program. Even as the coordinator, when I consider my own giving, I can identify with my church goal, but for my personal giving I cannot identify with \$300,000. The larger picture is automatic when everyone does his or her best at the local level."

In the 1980's, Mrs. Ackiss developed the "Bridge Builder" gift support program, a plan in which individuals or groups who give or pledge an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more through the dinner program are recognized as

"Bridge Builders." Its success has enhanced the entire support program, she says.

"With the help of the Bridge Builder gifts, we've increased our total goal. People look at it as an annual gift and because of that, this program has grown. I believe there are still other ways we can develop it even further, and we evaluate it constantly," she said. "The Bridge Builder program hasn't reached its potential yet."

People respond to the needs of the college, which is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, for several reasons, Mrs. Ackiss explains. "People believe the church needs this college. It is a ministry of the church. Through the college, the church is doing important work for its people. The college is an important part of the church — it's not the top priority, but an important part — and the church sees the need to have this kind of ministry."

The focus of individuals and churches who contribute to Mount Olive College, Mrs. Ackiss finds, is the difference that their gift support makes in the lives of needy students.

"Raising money isn't the top line or the bottom line — the purpose for which we're raising money is our emphasis," she said. "It's helping the students. When people give to Mount Olive College, they are taking part in the lives of our students."

Her husband, Bobby, is one whose appreciation for the college has deepened because of the dinner program, she said. Mr. Ackiss accompanies his wife to many of the dinners. "I'm very thankful for Bob's encouragement and support. Without it, I would be very limited in the energy and effort required for this work," she said. "Going with me has given him a greater appreciation for the college. He enjoys meeting the people and talking with them about why they believe in the college. Getting to know students and watching them develop has also greatly affected his understanding of the college."

At the end of such a successful dinner season as the 1995 program was,

Mrs. Ackiss said she measures her satisfaction in general and specific ways. "Satisfaction comes in many ways but first when you feel in your heart that you've done your best, you feel good about yourself," she said.

"Also when the results are good — the number of high school students attending the dinners increases, our relationship with the church is strengthened — then I feel a great satisfaction. I get satisfaction from seeing the volunteers respond enthusiastically," she added.

"When the campaign is finished and I look back on the results of the hard work of the volunteers, my heart simply swells with gratitude for the privilege God has given me to work with such fine people and to have some part in helping students, who in some cases might never go to college were it not for Mount Olive."

Summarizing her feelings about the dinners, Mrs. Ackiss said, "I feel God has called me to this work, and there is a sense of serious responsibility to work always with integrity. The volunteers give of their time and when they give their time, they give of themselves. I love and appreciate our church people, and close friendships have resulted from working with many of them."

Within the college, it is an emphasis on teamwork that makes the program successful, Mrs. Ackiss concludes. While she is the program coordinator, the work of many people is required to see the dinner season through to the end. She attributes credit to Eleanor Dickinson who has provided secretarial support since 1973 and has assisted the Office of Church Support since 1985. "Eleanor and I enjoy the teamwork involved in the din-

ners. Eleanor understands the importance of prompt follow up with volunteers, and she is very efficient in following through with all the many details of correspondence with each volunteer," Mrs. Ackiss said. She also identified Dianne Riley, Director of Admissions, as having an important role in the dinners, and Mrs. Irene Patten, Director of the Mount Olive College Singers, along with the Singers who provided music for 14 of the 1995 dinners.

This year a group of students known as "The Vision" under the coordination of Julie Wetherington, student assistant for the office of Institutional Advancement, provided music at three of the dinners — Carla McLamb, Mary Ann Ham, Daniel Thames, and Julie Wetherington. Referring to these students Mrs. Ackiss said, "I am very grateful for these students. It has been a joy to get to know them and I believe they are each one an asset to Mount Olive College. Every Free Will Baptist should be proud to know that they share in the lives of these fine students when they support the dinners."

Last, she expressed appreciation for Dr. W. Burkette Raper, former president of the college, "for teaching me how to do this work, and keeping me focused on our purpose."



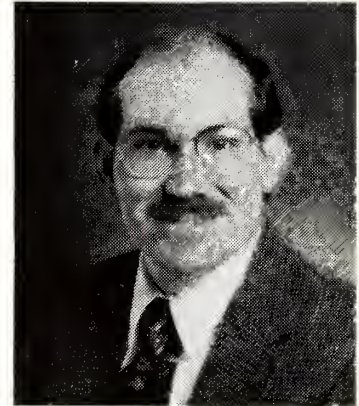
Mrs. Ackiss and Miss Dickinson are shown working on the dinner schedule. Left to Right; Eleanor Dickinson, Jean Ackiss

The Sixth Annual VIVIAN B. HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Theme: Preaching for Evangelism
and Spiritual Renewal

GUEST LECTURER: DR. ALVIN REID

Associate Professor of Evangelism
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



Tuesday ♦ February 27 ♦ 9:30 a.m.
Rodgers Chapel ♦ Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Schedule of Events:

Registration (no fee)	9:00 a.m.
Lecture One: <i>Evangelistic Preaching</i>	9:30 a.m.
Break and Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
Worship Service, Dr. Reid preaching	11:00 a.m.
Luncheon (\$7.00) and Dialogue in the Hennessee Room of the Murphy Regional Center	12:00 noon
Lecture Two: <i>Spiritual Renewal</i>	1:30 p.m.

About the Vivian B. Harrison Lecture...

The Vivian B. Harrison Lecture was established by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison in memory of his wife. The purpose of the lecture is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and lay persons of eastern North Carolina.

Mrs. Harrison was a graduate of Mount Olive College and Barton College where she earned a B. S. degree in elementary education. She taught public school in North Carolina for 17 years before retiring in 1986 due to illness. She was a member of Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County and was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Beamon and the late Mr. Charlie T. Beamon of Walstonburg, North Carolina.

The Reverend Frank Harrison is a graduate of Mount Olive College, Barton College, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has completed two years of post-graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Mr. Harrison has served as Campus Minister at Mount Olive College since 1971 and teaches courses in practical theology.

About the Harrison Lecturer...

Dr. Alvin L. Reid is Associate Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth and holds the Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. Prior to coming to Southeastern, he held the John Bisagno Chair of Evangelism at Houston Baptist University. Dr. Reid received the Ph.D. (with a major in evangelism) and Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Reid has a long list of publications to his credit, including books and numerous articles. Noteworthy among his books are two works he co-edited: *Revival: Brownwood, Forth Worth, Wheaton and Beyond*, and *Evangelism for a Changing World*. An ordained Southern Baptist minister, Dr. Reid has served churches as pastor, youth minister, and minister of music. A highly regarded speaker, he has presented seminars and addresses on evangelism and spiritual renewal across America from New England to Texas.

For further information contact: Dr. K. David Hines, Chairman, Department of Religion, Mount Olive College, 919-658-2502.

GIVING A FACELIFT TO THE FUTURE

BY DAVID EALY, STAFF WRITER

Many people have plastic surgery done to them in the hopes that changing their appearance will bring them a better quality of life. Perhaps that is true for some. But as Christians, we know that change must come from within. When a soul is reborn, the joy evident on his/her face is a result of internal joy. As a believer matures, he/she finds that their outward appearance is profoundly affected by their inner walk with God. So it has been with Cragmont.

What began as a tuberculosis sanatorium, drastically transformed when its inner purpose was changed. Instead of a place of temporary cures and death, we now see a powerful hospital for eternal healing and abundant life. Cragmont has become this for some and even more for others. Many who have entered the doors of the Main Building have returned home as doctors themselves: bringing the healing message of the Gospel to all they encountered. Cragmont has not only been a place for spiritual rebirth, but also a place of empowerment.

But whatever Cragmont has meant for the denomination has been made possible solely through God's using people to empower this place of ministry. As proven through the Jubilee campaign, nothing is impossible for God. If God's people will pray and give, no mountain is insurmountable, no debt is too large. And now, even as God has made this a debt-free ministry, we live in faith that God will continue to meet the needs of Cragmont as we move into the next millennium.

Cragmont's purposes have grown and expanded over the years. With the advent of Cragmont's fiftieth anniversary, new plans and ideas are being prayed-over and assimilated into this diverse and dynamic ministry. Ideas for more conferences and retreats, the need for more expansive facilities and even the convention's call to renewal have all played a part in the vision of Cragmont's future. In response to this, the Cragmont Board of Directors have chosen to give the campus facilities a needed facelift. Plans are already underway to convert the Main Building suites into rooms with private baths. Slated to begin this spring (and completed before the start of our conferences!) renovations of the Cragmont buildings have already presented a challenge to the people of our denomination. With the intention of remaining debt-free, the Board wishes to raise the necessary funds

and pay for the construction cost without entering into another loan situation. That means we need help today! Already several churches and individuals have responded, with more pledging their support. But the need is still great. Your church, Sunday school class, auxiliary or even your family can be a partner in this journey. Just use the form below and help us give Cragmont a facelift for the future!



SNOW, SNOW, SNOW



After Jubilee Donation Pledge

Name _____

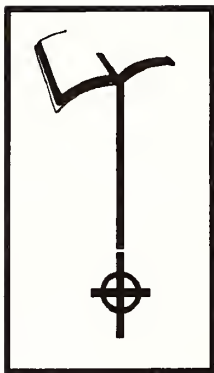
Address _____

Phone _____

Pledge ☐ \$5000 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other
Option: for a room over 5 yrs

Please complete this form and send it to: Facelift, c/o Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Please make checks payable to Cragmont Assembly. Thanks!

For more information please contact Cragmont Assembly: (704) 669-7677
FAX (704) 669-1463 • CragCom@aol.com.



Retirement Homes

Retirement Homes' Continuing Service

by Walter J. Sutton

Retirement Homes is pleased to announce its continuing ministry of care to Mrs. Natalie P. Taylor. Mrs. Taylor lived at 307 Shady Lane Drive, Smithfield, NC with her husband, Edward C. Taylor, before his departure to be with the Lord on July 18, 1995. With the cooperation of her children, we have rented her a small apartment in Currin Apartment Complex in Coats, NC. The apartment is well suited for individual retirement living. It is also located conveniently to her children, doctor's office, etc. Mrs. Taylor may be reached by writing: PO Box 225, Coats, NC 27521 or by telephone 910-897-8736.

The Smithfield property has been sold. These transactions were completed January 16, 1996. The proceeds from the sale have been given to Church Finance Association.

Retirement Homes would appreciate any additional gift support from individuals, auxiliaries, layman's leagues, and churches. These gifts would help us begin to help some of the most critical needs in the lives of some of our retired who are inquiring and requesting our services.

You are welcome to visit our office at a time of your convenience. You are also welcome to write, call or visit Mrs. Taylor at her new location.

Pray for Retirement Homes. Your gift support will be appreciated.



Mrs. Natalie P. Taylor

Why Retirement Homes Ask For Your Help

by Walter J. Sutton

Retirement Homes is a ministry of the Convention, charged to plan and administer a schedule of services to the retired segment of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. For twenty years this ministry has been in place. It has helped more than twenty families. Currently, we are helping four people.

The services we offer, we believe, best meets the basic living needs of our retired. Our package of services include: community based housing, utilities, kitchen appliances, repairs, and yard maintenance. Every person in our care receives these services alike. No one is denied our services, so long as funds are available. Any retired person in the Denomination has the privilege of applying for admittance. We will personally visit and help the applicant with their application. We will mail an application form to their address or they, with their family can come directly to our office and complete the transaction.

It is evident, the package of service we offer is available to our retired. It is reasonable to conclude, all will not apply or need our services. We cannot purchase or rent apartments for every retiree or person in the Denomination. That is not the intent of this ministry. We are in place to help those who have the need — a need beyond their ability to provide. Those who have the ability to provide these services for themselves should be thankful and not envious of those whom we help. We are in place to help those in need. That is why we ask you to help. Send your gift today! Thank You!

For more information on how you can help Retirement Homes contact:

Rev. Walter J. Sutton, Director
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
or call (919) 746-4963



The Rev. Harold Jones, Director-Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions Visits India, Nepal & Bangladesh

Although pages could be written about the hectic but real exciting visit of our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones, to India, Nepal, and Bangladesh from November 4 – 18, 1995. However, I make a concise report of achievements of his visit to the three countries in this part of the world.

He was scheduled to reach Delhi, the capital of our country from Hong Kong on November 3 by 8:40 pm. I drove from Bareilly, reaching the airport in time and the Air India Flight No. 317 from Hong Kong to Delhi arrived on time. I kept on waiting for his arrival outside until 11:30 pm, and when he did not come, I checked with the Air India to learn whether he actually travelled or not. The negative information was given to me at 2:30 am the next day owing to dereliction of duty on the part of the staff. It had caused me great concern, and I called Inez to see whether she got any message. Her answer too, was negative. Then I called Mrs. Jones on the phone and she narrated the whole episode through which he could not keep up his schedule. However, he had managed to arrive in Delhi late the next evening. As I saw him he looked happy and comfortable and was willing to undertake travel to Bareilly by road to work with his assignment in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. However, I advised him not to drive to Bareilly, the headquarters of our work, during the night, for fear of road holding, or terrorist subversion. The next evening, November 5, 1995 we reached Bareilly and therefore, the Rev. Jones had to forego the three itinerated programs at the churches at Rudrapur, Bareilly, and the fellowship at the concluding day of our convention November 5, 1995. Subsequently, the remaining itinerary was completed by him without much rest and relaxation.

He was excited to visit all the four school buildings for which the funds came. All these elementary schools have now been pro-

moted as Junior High Schools with mass enrolment, benefiting the rural people who were going without education since the creation of the world. He also visited other new schools at Gudhni, Bhikaripur, Bilsa, and Palwal, and was happy to see the progress of these institutions. He dedicated the Free Will Baptist Junior High School, Shekupura, District Rampur (U.P.) on his way back to Delhi on November 11, 1995. He had inspected the Matkhera Elementary School (this school was seen by the group which visited India in 1994 from North Carolina) which needs immediate extension for its development to be raised to the status of Junior High School. He saw two church congregations at Kandharpur and Bhikaripur which need help in the construction of church buildings.

We drove to the country of Nepal on Thursday, November 9, 1995 to inspect the four English Medium Schools, but that was a holiday (Constitution day) yet the school children of Dhangarhi, Kailali, came to meet with us in a bus headed for a picnic. In this way we had the privilege of seeing another school of Kanchanpur and realized the basic needs of these three schools. We drove back to Bareilly the same night to undertake the rest of the program on schedule.

The Rev. Jones was excited to visit new English Medium School and the big congregation of our church constituted at Palwal, Haryana. Haryana is a separate Province of India adjacent to Delhi where the Lord moved us during the year and we hope to achieve tremendous progress in the growth of His Kingdom in this new venture.

There was an 11 day strike in the country of Bangladesh as we scheduled to visit there and our contact person the Rev. N.K. Das Gupta, had wired us to postpone our visit until November 28, 1995, which was not possible according to the flight schedule of our Director-Treasurer. Hence, we took the risk

to flying to Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, on November 13, 1995 and did not face many hurdles in our telephone contact with the Rev. Gupta at Chandpur another Sate of Bangladesh. We rushed by ferry (boat) to Chandpur covering the sailing mileage in about five hours and met the Rev. Gupta at the terminal at Chandpur. We had discussions relating to our church work and were privileged to visit a couple of places of tribal people which is the only field with which we can work. Fundamentalism, communalism, lawlessness, and criminalization were obviously rampant as witnessed by both of us.

We thanked the Lord for enabling our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones, to visit the Free Will Baptist work in this region. We have a lot to talk about, discussing many things of importance, and also about the future leadership of the church in my absence.

Submitted by
(Dr. E.M. Lal)



Ribbon cutting at Shekhupura Junior High School



Student body at Shekhupura

The Second Fruit of T.E.E.

by Dario S. Basingil

On August 7-14, 1995, the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines once again conducted a one week Theological Education by Extension at El Shaddai Full Gospel Church in Cebu City.

We had thirteen (13) students who enrolled and committed themselves to study the Word of God, and graduated in the said Theological Education by Extension.

The thirteen students were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Pastor Virgilio Cañeda | 8) Brother Aratochi Bajao |
| 2) Pastor Rogelio Manzan | 9) Sister Cleofe Lastimosa |
| 3) Pastor Edwin Bajao | 10) Sister Benita Tuane |
| 4) Pastor Alfonso Marzon | 11) Sister Josefina Manzan |
| 5) Brother Apolonio Paquit | 12) Sister Clyde Bajao |
| 6) Brother Tirso Ayungao | 13) Sister Lady Bird Faith Perocillo |
| 7) Brother Medardo Davin | |

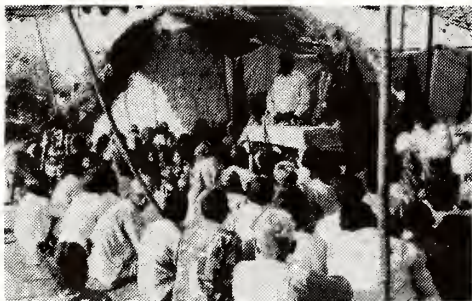
We have five students who came from other provinces, like Pastor Edwin Bajao, his son Aratochi, and his daughter, Sister Clyde Bajao, these three are from Cagayan de Oro City, province of Mindanao, the two students Pastor Alfonso Marzon and Brother Tirso Ayungao came from the Municipality of Sagbayan province of Bohol, the birth place of the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo, and the rest of the students are from Cebu City.

The Theological Education by Extension had offered twelve courses:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1) How to study the Bible | 7) Ministry of Reconciliation |
| 2) Biblical Way of Salvation | 8) Free Will Baptist Church Distinctive |
| 3) How to preach | 9) Church Planting and Mission |
| 4) How to pray | 10) Church Administration |
| 5) What the Bible teaches | 11) Cults |
| 6) How to teach the Bible | 12) Christian Family Life |

I and the Rev. Antonio Samones Jr. went to Cebu City to be one of their teachers for one week. We thank God for His provision to us, that through the Foreign Mission in the person of the Rev. Harold Jones and family, God used them to be a part of the work of the Lord in the Philippines.

I greatly appreciate the concern shown by the Foreign Mission the brethren in North Carolina U.S.A, and the Rev. Harold Jones and family through their support in T.E.E., Theological Education by Extension program in terms of financial needs.



Church and school at Bhikaripur



Church and school at Bhikaripur



School children in Nepal



Ribbon cutting at Palwal Haryana, New Delhi



Speaking to Palwal congregation



"My Peace I give to you. I do not give it to you as the world gives. Let your hearts not be troubled and don't be afraid."

Garry, who is 14 years old, began his lesson with the teachings of Jesus. His step-father died in April, his real father left him and his brother when they were very young; he has two older and two younger brothers. Garry became very emotional when he was teaching. He said to us: "I feel so lonely, I feel like God has forgotten me, but when I pray I always feel a little better and after that, the loneliness comes over me again." I asked him: "Do you miss your father a lot?" "Yes, I do," he answered. All together we spoke with him and after a while he said: "I know that my God can give me comfort, because He is my real, real Father. He is the Father who does not leave His children."

Garry loves animals and nature. He told us: "One day mama cooked beans, she gave to all the children to eat, and even to the dog, so we all were eating. I kept silent before I started to eat, I prayed. My brothers asked me: 'What are you doing?' I told them: 'I am praying to my God.' 'Why?' Then I explained to them: 'Do you see that dog? The difference between him and me is that even if that dog wants to pray and to thank God for his food, he cannot do it. To me, who is just a Gypsy, God gave that honor.'"

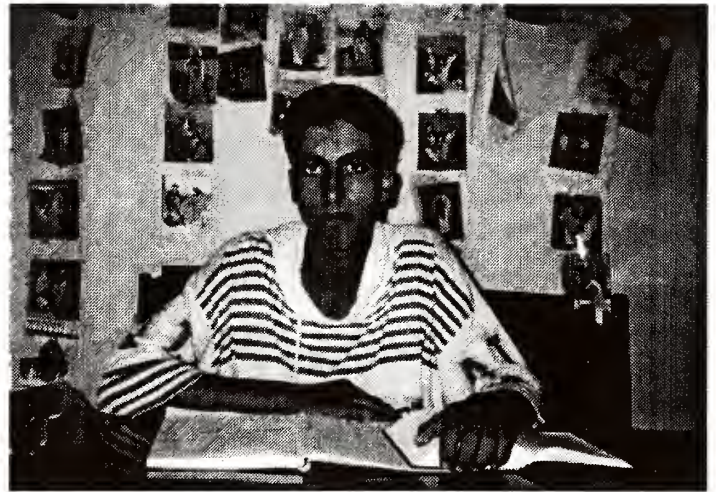
Garry is always very sincere during the teachings. He always has questions which make me very happy. He is a little bit more free to express himself than the others in his group. He has a loving heart, he is strong, and he helps his mother very much. In the fall and in the winter he works on a farm. In the summer he goes fishing with his friends, members of the "Immanuel Youth Group." So he is able to earn money for

food at home. At this moment he works with a building company in the daytime and at night he watches at a workplace. I told him: "God the Father loves you very much, not because He feels pity on you, but He is truly concerned about you as one of His children. God loves you for what you are and for the way you desire to live for Him."

We all have a strong "Back." The word "Back" has a special meaning; it is the one who supports, who cares and who encourages a person. Samet said: "Our back is even much stronger than Samsom." We all were very happy and laughed together.

Thank you Lord that You keep us in Your loving arms, so caring and so protecting. Thank you Father for the life You gave to us. We will always love You.

J.



*** Notice ***

The Annual Foreign Missions

TELETHON SUNDAY

AND

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

is only 8 Sundays away

Your gift, call and prayers on

March 24, 1996

WILL MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!!

(Telethon material will be mailed on February 19, 1996)



(919) 746-4963

FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1996

THEME: RENEW OUR VISION

(A PRAYER)

**Theme Verse: "Where there is no vision, the
people perish..." Proverbs 29:18a.**

**Where there is vision, the people flourish.
Harold Jones**

The Telethon, Day of Prayer for Revival, and World Missions is an opportune time to seek the Lord for renewal.
From renewal comes great missions endeavor and giving.

GOAL 1996: A total of \$110,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if every church and individual will trust the Lord in prayer for His provision and give according to His supply. Giving gladly so others can hear of Jesus Christ is a true sign of renewal.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 pm. Dial (919) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday gives evidence of a renewed vision and love for the lost around the world.

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. WHEN WE GIVE, HE GIVES MUCH MORE IN RETURN.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" II Corinthians 9:6-8.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 24, 1996

Revival comes when God's people see the need for revival and earnestly seek Him through prayer.
Revival gives a new vision of God's purpose for the Church.

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:12-13.

The Lord has promised to hear our earnest prayers and reveal Himself to us when we seek Him. Revival is simply seeking the constant fullness of God in our life and living daily to glorify Him in word and deed. Let's give ourselves to this kind of prayer and believe God to revive us personally and the Church as a whole.

**PRAYER GOAL 1996: All churches joining together in united prayer
during the Worship Hour, March 24, 1996.
LET US PRAY!**



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN
MISSIONS
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Phone: 919-746-4963**

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1996

AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE

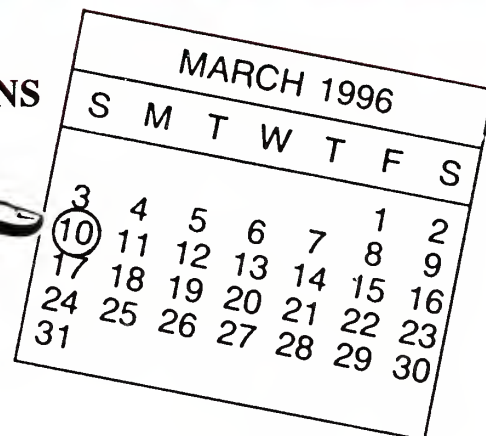
Annual World Missions Conference

Sponsored by the

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

PLACE: Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
(Highway 421, Dunn, NC)

TIME: 5:00 pm Opening Service
6:00 pm Light snack provided by BFM with
the generous help of the host church.
7:00 pm Closing Service
Special Music by host church



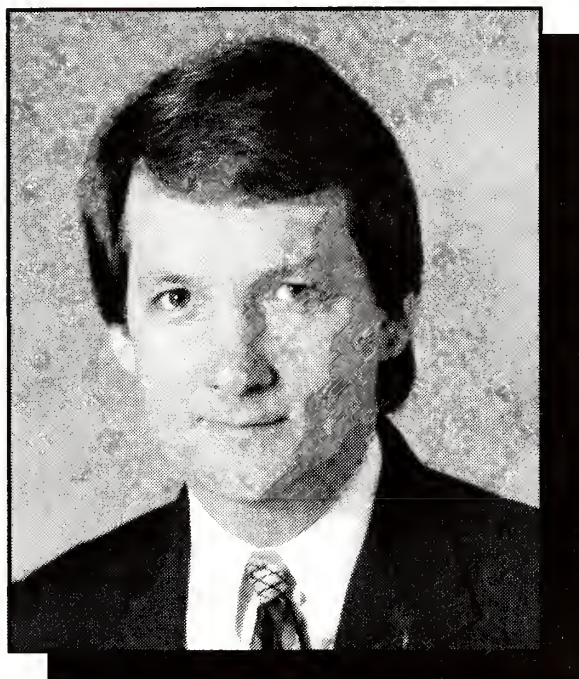
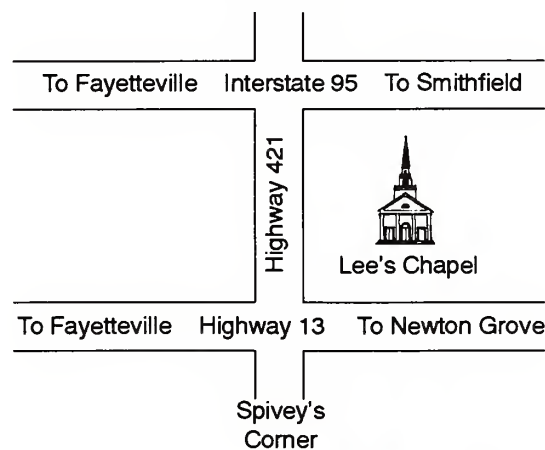
The Conference will be over by 8:00 pm so you will not be so late returning home.

The Board decided to change the Conference to Sunday, in order to give more people an opportunity to participate. We encourage churches to call off their evening service and join us for this special time of renewal.

THEME: PRAYER — RENEWAL — MISSIONS

The Church is located on Highway 421 between Dunn and Spivey's Corner.

Dunn, NC



Speaker: The Rev. Scott McHugh

President of Days of Heaven Ministries, Inc., an organization committed to facilitating spiritual awakening and world evangelism. He has taught Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Seminars across the United States. He has been a guest teacher for the Metro Bible Study in Atlanta and worked with Dan DeHaan as an associate teacher for the National Institute of Biblical Studies. He is senior pastor of the Church at North Point in Atlanta, Georgia.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.
PRAY DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE**



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN
MISSIONS**
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Phone: 919-746-4963



February

Is Christian Education Month

SUN	MON	TUE	
1	2	3	4
4	5 ★ Aurora Musicalis Rodgers Chapel 7:30 pm	6 ✚ Youth and Family Ministry Committee 10:00 am	7
11	12	13 ◆ Church Finance Annual Meeting	14
			National C
18	19	20 ✚ Free Will Baptist Press Board 1:00 pm ✿ Retirement Homes Board 7:00 pm	21 Val
25	26	27 ★ Harrison Lecture Mount Olive College 9:30 am	28

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

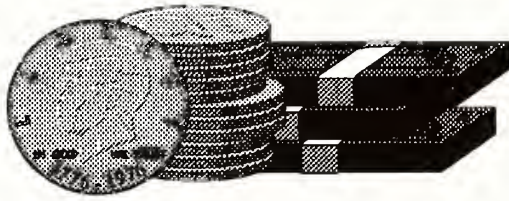
LEGEND

Previous/following month
Current month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Home Missions
- ◆ Church Finance
- ☆ Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- ✿ Retirement Homes

	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 + Task Force Meeting 10:00 am Little Rock Church	2	3
	8 ▲ Minister's Program Tax Seminar	9	10
	15 ■ Children's Home Board 7:30 pm	16	17 ☆ Mount Olive College Church Basketball Night
City Conference			
Wash. Day			
	22	23 <i>Free Will Baptist Day of Prayer</i>	24
	29		30 March is Foreign Missions Month



MONEY: You May Not Need It!

Often in ancient times kings and other rulers were buried with vast riches that were supposed to pay their way in the afterlife. These riches were found, often centuries later when the tombs were opened, demonstrating that the money was not needed.

In our civilization money has become a tool, a medium of exchange. In and of itself it is worth very little; its value comes from the investment of time and work necessary to earn money. Therefore, we need money to provide: food, clothing, shelter, and the amenities of life. The key concept is life. The dead do not need money any more than those long dead kings needed money. This same truth applies to organizations, including churches.

Churches, when they have lost the vitality of ministry, are dead. Raising money becomes the end in itself and a futile exercise. On a very practical level: people see that the church is not doing ministry and they do not give or worse, they drift away and find a new and active ministry.

There are many warning signs that occur before the church reaches the final lifeless condition, unfortunately, most congregations don't want to see or admit their problems. Some churches could be saved if the needs were recognized and help sought. Recently, our denomination has been working on "Project Solution," which we believe will help us see our needs. Out of our involvement in this process Home Missions and Evangelism has already seen the need to reach out to the congregation that is struggling. For several years Home Missions and Evangelism has offered the video study series:

"Growth for the Smaller Church"

"Growth for the Smaller Church" is a video study kit that is ideal for leaders in a church of 140 or less. It is designed to stimulate leaders' thinking and desire toward outreach ministry through their smaller congregations.

This kit features keynote presentations from a conference on *How to Grow a Small Church*, including sessions by Ken Chafin, Win Arn, Ray Sells, Robert Orr and others.

Another program available from Home Missions and Evangelism is:

"Associates in Ministry" (AIM)

AIM is an advanced discipleship program for committed men and women of a local church. Utilizing New Testament principles, AIM endeavors to develop lay leadership as well as launch church members into fruitful and satisfying personal ministries within the local church.

This program is designed with complete leader's guide and student packets that can enable a local church to carry out the program effectively. However, we recommend a thorough briefing from an experienced AIM leader before undertaking this program. You can contact Home Missions and Evangelism for such a leader.

In Process

In response to an expressed need Home Missions and Evangelism is developing a more comprehensive program to help the local church. The new program will have three levels of involvement depending on the local need. In this development process we earnestly desire your prayer support and as always we are very thankful to God and our Free Will Baptist people for their continued guidance and support.

We must mention, however, that for help to be given there must be an inquiry and invitation from the local church. Home Missions and Evangelism wants to help, but we cannot without being invited. God bless each of you and please continue your prayer and financial support so that we won't fail in ministry.

Equipping God's People:

A Perspective on Education for the Christian Ministry

by K. David Hines, Chair, Mount Olive College Department of Religion, Member FWB Press Board

"And these were his gifts: some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for work in his service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:10, NEB

There is an old saying that if you give a man a fish you feed him for one day. If you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. This simple maxim expresses the philosophy of my ministry in the Department of Religion at Mount Olive College. God has given me a special opportunity to help equip those whom God has called for service as ministers in the Church of Jesus Christ. Sometimes I shudder at this responsibility because I realize that the quality of preparation that one receives will be reflected in years of pastoral leadership.

Writing this article has given me opportunity for some serious thinking. At Mount Olive, we have a curriculum in place for teaching religion and church ministries. If you would examine our listing of classes, you would quickly notice that the courses we offer are similar to those at other church related colleges. This awareness moves me to ask, "What is different about Mount Olive College?" To put this question more pointedly, "What difference am I trying to make as I teach?" This article is the result of my reflections.

The following are seven commitments that I bring to my ministry of teaching at Mount Olive College.

1. Commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Where and how one starts will, to a great extent, determine where and how one will arrive. On my theological journey, I have started with a commitment that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the su-

preme revelation of God to humankind. Jesus Christ is "the Word made flesh."

In theological circles, it seems to be popular to suggest that the way of Christ is one way to God and that others may find different paths more suitable to their culture. While I do agree that we Christians must have respect and tolerance for all persons and their viewpoints, this does not change my conviction on who Jesus is or on His redemptive work. In my judgment, 2 Corinthians 5:19 is clear: "That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us" (NRSV). Through sending the Son into the world, through His atoning death and Resurrection, God acted decisively to redeem humankind. Yes, Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth and the life." You can be confident that this is an foundational commitment for the teaching of religion at Mount Olive College.

2. Commitment to the Authority of Holy Scripture

It is my conviction that the Bible is the authoritative and inspired witness to God's revelation in history, most notably to God's revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we believe in the God who acts. Our God does not simply stand back as a casual observer or an armchair quarterback. God is involved. God created through His Word. It was God who called Abraham to go to a new land. It was God who led the Children of Israel out of Egypt, through the sea, and through the wilderness. It was God who established His Covenant through Moses, then David, and who later spoke of a new Covenant through Jeremiah. It was God who fulfilled this promise in Christ.

To study God's revelation, you study the Bible. As 2 Timothy 3:16 states: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful

for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (NRSV). I am committed to this.

3. Commitment to the Mission of the Church

From my reading of the New Testament I have come to understand the mission of the Church in terms of three expressions: Service, Fellowship, and Evangelism. In other words, the Church exists to serve God and meet the needs of humankind; to provide nurture, love, and care for the redeemed; and to proclaim to a lost world the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Regarding service and fellowship, consider the example of Jesus. As Christians, we are concerned (or at least should be) about hunger, racism, sexism, child abuse, crime, injustice, divorce...the list goes on and on! When Jesus looked over Jerusalem, He wept because He was so moved by the needs of people. Our problem is simple to diagnose: nothing makes us weep anymore. Note that Jesus extended love and acceptance to all persons. Can the Church, the Body of Christ, settle for anything less?

In my opinion, no program of ministerial education is worth its weight in salt unless there is the intention to light an evangelistic fire in the students. Jesus Christ loved lost people all the way to Golgotha's tree. It is the joy of the Church to take this message out with the intention of making disciples. I pray that my students will leave Mount Olive with a passion to reach the lost.

An additional note on the mission of the Church: at Mount Olive, we are particularly committed to the mission and heritage of the Original Free Will Baptist Church. While I do not believe that we are the only ones on the way to Heaven, we have a good heritage, a sound doctrine, and a future full of opportunity.

4. A Commitment to Responsible Christian Scholarship

In teaching ministers, I do seek to encourage the heart; but I also seek to challenge and enlighten the mind. As our society becomes increasingly complex and people better educated, it is imperative that our ministers are better equipped for effective leadership and service. But just what do I mean by "responsible" scholarship?

I am not afraid to expose my students to anything in the world of ideas from either Christian or other resources. Yet this must be done with care and compassion. I have been in classes where professors presented information with an almost reckless abandon, all in the name of "getting the students to think." I do not do my best thinking when I am angry, and I feel that most other folks are in the same boat. New ideas are sometimes difficult to deal with. With this in mind, I have found patience to be a helpful teaching device.

Occasionally I will run across scholarly works which presuppose what I have heard called a "hermeneutic of suspicion." ("Hermeneutics" refers to the task of Biblical interpretation.) Responsible scholarship sees no value in such an approach. I do not read the Bible as an unbiased observer. I approach the Bible as a believer, for in reading the Bible I have been confronted with the Word of God! How could I be "unbiased" about that? So I will use and will teach my students to use all the scholarly tools at their disposal, but I will remind them that these methods are just that — tools which, when used with dependence on the Holy Spirit, may enable us to "rightly divide the word of truth."

5. A Commitment to Teaching For Application

What we are doing in the classroom is but a means to an end. Our classes are not an end unto themselves. Each class is taught with a view toward the development of practical skills which can be applied in local church ministry. Questions on my exams are often directed toward situations that the students will one day encounter as pastors. For example, I am glad when my students can explain to me the controversy surrounding the use

of spiritual gifts in Corinth. I am much happier when they are prepared to teach this important passage to their churches.

When one begins serving as a pastor, there will be a number of surprises. Part of my job is to prepare these students for many of these situations as I can anticipate. In effective education for ministry, there is a clear link from the classroom to the sanctuary, Sunday school room, or hospital room.

6. A Commitment to Being a Positive Role Model

I share with you this commitment with reservation, but I feel it is an essential part of teaching.

I learned something in ten years of pastoral ministry prior to coming to Mount Olive College: over time, churches begin to take on the personality of their pastors. Though this is a frightening and humbling thing to think about, I really saw this begin to happen in my last church. This concept should be a challenge for us ministers to be the kind of Christians that we would like to see our parishioners become.

As a professor, I accept the challenge of being the kind of minister that I hope that my students will become. I acknowledge what happened in my last church may also happen to my students. In Ephesians 4, the roles of pastor and teacher are linked. Though my parish is now a classroom, I am still seeking to live out my calling as a pastor/teacher.

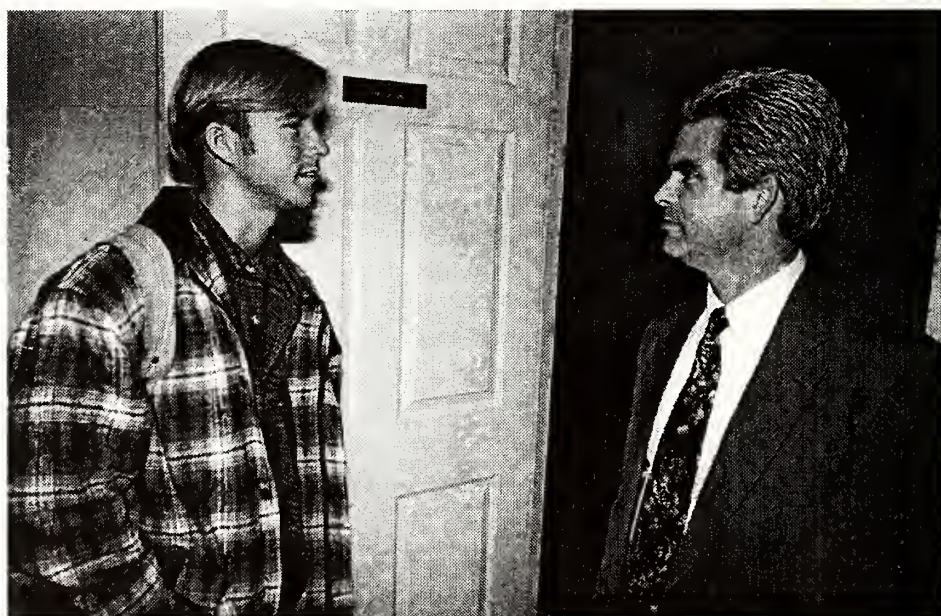
7. A Commitment to the Mission of Mount Olive College

The mission of Mount Olive College was established in our charter, which calls for an "...emphasis upon scholarship and Christian living in an academic community made up of persons dedicated to the practice and advancement of Christian ideals..." This mission provides the lens through which we plan our programs of service to our students and to our sponsoring church.

Another vital part of the mission of Mount Olive is our commitment to a liberal arts education. This means we provide a curriculum which exposes our students to learning in the major areas of human endeavor — literature, history, religion, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts. While I could argue the intrinsic value of these areas, I feel that this type of education is especially helpful for those who would preach the Gospel and seek the lead the church. The God who gave His best for us expects our best from us.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read my reflections on what it is I try to do each day at Mount Olive College. Please know that these are not empty words. These statements represent the commitment that I am making to my students, my Church, and my God. Teaching is not my job; it my vocation, my calling.



Brian Davis, ministerial student, talks with Dr. K. David Hines, Chair Department of Religion

Celebrating 100 Years of Service 1895-1995

Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church Western Conference, Pikeville, NC

"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD"
(Psalm 122:1).

We began our Centennial celebration at our annual Homecoming in October, 1994. So that everyone would be constantly reminded of our Centennial, a large sign was erected in front of the church, and banners were hung over the pulpit and in the Fellowship Hall. These remained in place for one year. Everyone attending our Homecoming Services signed the registration book and received a commemorative pencil.

Those serving on the Centennial Committee were the Rev. and Mrs. David Thick, Bill and Bettie Lynch, Danny and Leigh Tillman, Zora Bunn, Sabra Pittman, Louvene Berry, and Michelle Stocks. Special services and activities were planned for each month from October 1994 through December 1995.

In November of 1994 we had a special service honoring our veterans. During December of 1994 we made decorations, including popcorn and cranberry strings, for our Christmas tree. This was enjoyed during our annual Christmas play and gift exchange. We also enjoyed the presentation of our first Christmas Cantata, direct by Alison Rollins.

On January 1, 1995 the entire Sunday school and church congregations were honored with a dinner cooked and served by the Rev. and Mrs. David R. Thick and the Rev. and Mrs. Sam Weeks. During this month orders were placed for commemorative plates, caps, tee shirts and sweatshirts.

A special service honoring our deacons, trustees, musicians, Sunday school teachers and assistants, and the maintenance committee was held on February 12, 1995. A soup, salad and sandwich lunch followed.

March 1995 was Sunday School Promotion month. We stressed perfect attendance, and the children and youth enjoyed a puppet show and videos. On Family Day we only had five Sunday school members absent, and they were sick. Our Spring Revival was held the last of March. Each night the message was delivered by a different minister. They were the Rev. Floyd Cherry, Dr. Billy Yawn, the Rev. David Kriger, the Rev. Ray Wells, and the Rev. Greg Floars.

On April 16, 1995 we enjoyed our annual Easter Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast, Sunday school and the morning worship service. The "30 Pieces of Silver Offering" was used to purchase a sound system for our church.

Our mothers were honored on May 14, 1995. Each mother received a special poem and pin. On the fourth Sunday in May we honored our high school graduate, Cori Bunn, and our two boys that had completed first grade, Jake Bunn and Philip Croom. The ones being honored received Bibles and a dinner in their honor.

On June 18, 1995 all fathers were honored with a special service by the ladies and youth. A poem and pin was presented to each father. Bible school was held the last week in June. We correlated one of our crafts with our Centennial celebration, by helping the children and youth put their hand prints and the date on tee shirts and caps.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held on July 22, 1995. Everyone enjoyed the dunking booth, the moon walk, and many other games. During the evening we roasted our Pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. David R. Thick, and presented them with gift certificates. We hosted the Wayne County Sunday School Fellowship on July 24, 1995. Our program that

evening was a puppet play telling the history of Pleasant Hill Church. The play was written and directed by Sabra Pittman.

Family Day was held on Sunday, August 20th. After dinner everyone enjoyed a video presentation made from old pictures of church services and activities, and the 1952 Bible school video (made from a 16mm film).

During the month of September, we had another Sunday school promotion, thirty-four members and friends went on a three day trip to Cragmont Assembly. Dr. William Byrd, President of Mt. Olive College, was our guest speaker on the fourth Sunday in September when we observed our annual Mount Olive College day.

Homecoming was October 15, 1995. Everyone attending signed the registration book and received a commemorative bulletin, pencil, and bookmark. Special guests from our Denominational Enterprises were recognized during our morning worship service. Our Pastor, the Rev. David R. Thick, delivered the morning message entitled "Who Will Fill These Shoes." We exceeded our goal for our 100th year harvest offering. The morning services were followed by an "Old Fashioned" picnic lunch, and an afternoon program of singing by members and former members, and a memorial service.

November 5, 1995 was a special day for Philip Croom, and one that he will remember as long as he lives. Philip was the first to be baptized in our new baptistry. November 12, 1995 was a day that everyone present will remember for at least 25 years. Several members dressed "Old Fashioned" for this special day. During our morning worship service we filled a "Time Capsule" with past and present memories and buried it in the church cemetery. The "Time

Capsule" will be opened on Homecoming Day, October 18, 2020. After the capsule was buried we enjoyed a "Thanksgiving Dinner," giving thanks for the special services and activities we have celebrated this year and a special thanks for our rich heritage.

Our year culminated with a special Candlelight Service on December 3, 1995. At this service our Christmas Tree was dedicated and we held a silent, family-oriented candlelight communion. Each family member lit a candle,

knelt and prayed at the foot of the cross, and then took communion. The service ended with everyone joining hands for prayer. Other December services and activities included our annual Christmas Play, "The Real Christmas," written by Susan Smith, our Christmas Cantata, directed by Alison Rollins, and our annual gift exchange and party in the fellowship hall.

The past 15 months of celebrations have been a special blessing to all that have attended and participated. Our

Centennial Committee for the year 2020 will be: Jessica Hare, Ryan Bunn, Philip Croom, Adam Smith, Berri Wiggins, Hope Pittman, Mark Ruff, Nikki Talton, Jake Bunn, Jeremy Pittman, Leiren Tillman, Autumn Pittman, Matthew Tillman, Summer Pittman, and Jody Spencer Bunn. We ask God's continued blessings on this committee of children and youth and on our church family.

Bettie B. Lynch
Sondra Thick

Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church

Church History – November 12, 1995

The year was 1895, the President of the United States was Grover Cleveland. He was serving his second term in a country with a population of 66,970,496 people. The Civil War had ended only thirty years earlier, and the nation was still trying to heal its scars from the war. During the long healing process the country was also trying to prepare itself for the next century, a century of change.

In that same year in the rural countryside of Wayne County in North Carolina a group of people decided they wanted to have a place of worship in their community. So, in 1895 at the home of J.H. Shallington, Pleasant Hill Church was organized. It laid down the foundation of a strong church where people from all over the community could come to worship the Lord. A woman by the name of Margaret Crawford led the church at this time.

The people continued to meet in Mr. Shallington's home until the first church site was donated. Mr. Shallington donated a site one-half mile west of the present site on Goldsboro Road, now known as Gurley Dairy Road. The first building which was only partially completed remained there for approximately four years. On January

5, 1899 a piece of land was deeded to the church by Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Mazingo, Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Howell all of Johnston County, and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Benson of Wayne County. This site is where the church stands today. The unfinished church was moved from the original location to the present location and completed.

The first pews were made from lumber donated by Mr. William Sasser. These were later replaced with pews made from gum lumber, given by Mr. John Hollowell Sr., which remained in the church until 1958.

The first recorded minutes of the church were made by Mr. Sasser on August 19, 1914. The first motion of business was to hear from the building committee and to continue this committee. Also, two delegates were appointed to go to the next Union Meeting, and it was decided to send \$1.50 contribution. A delegate was also sent to the State Conference with a contribution of \$1.00. Two delegates were also sent to the General Conference with a \$1.00 donation, with \$.50 going toward education and \$.50 going toward missions.

Mr. Sasser served as clerk until he went into military service in 1917. Then Mr. J.C. Bunn served as clerk until

1921. From 1921 until 1925 Mr. W.P. Pittman served and he was followed by Mrs. O.P. (Sally Bunn) Snipes who served until her death in 1948. Since that time Mrs. Louise Berry Phillips, Mrs. Perrine Sasser Bunn, Mrs. Bettie Lou Bunn Talton Lynch, Mrs. Marjorie Bass Snipes, Linda Bunn Pierce, and Snipes Becky Rollins Hare have served as church clerks.

During 1944 the church installed its first electric lights, a new heater, and put a floor in the building. Plus, it also did some exterior improvements. The church was then remodeled in 1948 for the first time with the addition of 2 Sunday school rooms. In 1950 the memorial windows, which are still in the church, were added. Six years would pass before the church would take on the biggest renovation project in its history.

The sanctuary was completely renovated and four more Sunday school rooms were added. Mr. Bill Turner was the main contractor. Timbers were donated, cut and prepared for use by church members. Mr. Bill Turner donated the brick. Folding doors were placed in the sanctuary as a memorial to Danny Kyle Bunn. The outside of the church was bricked up on top of the

original siding. A new heating system was also installed. An outdoor bulletin board was also built that year. It was donated by the Pastor, the Rev. James Lupton and family. Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bunn also donated a half acre of land to the church to be used as the church cemetery.

In 1957 the church moved to half time service. This meant there was a Sunday morning and a Sunday night worship service the first and third Sundays of each month.

The building program which was started in 1956 was completed in 1958 free of all indebtedness. Dedication services were held on Sunday, October 19, 1958.

In the fall of 1959 Pleasant Hill Church was chosen by Nahunta Grange to be entered in the North Carolina State Grange "Church of the Year" contest. Entering this contest was an inspiration and a spiritual awakening to the needs of the church and community. It gave the church membership an opportunity to take a look at what it was doing as a church body. The first scrapbook of the church's activities was made, and the church won honorable mention in this contest.

In 1960, the Rev. Jerry Rowe, a student at Mt. Olive Junior College, was called as pastor. The Rev. Rowe brought great spiritual leadership to the church. The membership was increased by six. The Rev. Rowe later left for a full-time pastorate. The Rev. Bruce Dudley, a student at Atlantic Christian College and a graduate of Mt. Olive Junior College, accepted the pastorate.

In April of 1965 with only a little over \$2,000 in the building fund, the church began building the fellowship hall. It is adjacent to and just behind the sanctuary. The dimensions of the building were 27 1/2 X 57 1/2 feet. It is made of concrete cinder blocks. The building contained a fellowship hall, kitchen, three Sunday school rooms, a storage room, and two restrooms. The work was not done under contract. With the backing of the Sunday school, hired

labor, and help from the church members, the work on this project was completed in May of 1966. In June of 1967 a dedication service was held with the building being free of debt.

At the time of the dedication plans were already in the works for a choir loft, and a new outside bulletin board was being erected. The choir loft was completed in January of 1969. Also, during that year carpet was installed in the church. On July 13, 1969 the church voted to install a new heating and air-conditioning system. In 1970, a debt free year, this project was completed.

Between the years of 1971 and 1974 many new additions were added to the church, including the following:

- 1971 – Shingle top roof
- 1972 – Cement walk ways
- 1972 – Vinyl floor in fellowship hall
- 1972 – Fellowship hall painted inside and outside
- 1973 – New piano purchased for the church
- 1973 – Steeple added to the roof
- 1974 – Heat and A/C installed in fellowship hall
- 1974 – Carpet added in the nursery and 3 other Sunday school rooms
- 1974 – Floyd Baker gave a map, drawn to scale, of the cemetery

In 1972 the church voted to go to full time service. This meant that church was held every Sunday. In 1974, there were 11 Sunday school classes, 4 Youth Groups, a Ladies' Auxiliary, an Adult Choir, A Girl's Choir, and a Youth Choir. The Deacon Board was organized at this time and met 4 times each year. The new steeple was dedicated on June 9, 1974 by the Rev. Dallas Pinkham.

In 1976 a Children's Church began that continued for several years until a decline in interest caused it to be shelved. A house was rented at this time to give a home to the pastor and his family. A year later, in 1977, land across the road was purchased and a parsonage was erected. The contractor completed the home later that year with the

help of the Rev. Luther Swinson and the men of the church. In 1978 the grounds were landscaped and the shrubbery and trees were planted.

Between 1978 and 1984 there were several additions to the sanctuary which included the following: church organ, book racks for the pews, pew cushions, and Bibles. During the time plexiglass covers were also added to the stained glass windows. The sanctuary's front doors were replaced with modern glass doors.

In November of 1985, the debt on the parsonage was retired and the home was dedicated to the service of the Lord. In 1986 hand rails were added to the steps on the front and back of the church. An area light was also installed at the rear of the church property.

In 1987 new shingles were laid on the roof of the sanctuary. During this year Sunday school enrollment was 91, and church membership was 147.

In the following years until the present year of 1995 many activities and lots of fellowship have been enjoyed at Pleasant Hill Church. Some of the things that the church accomplished are as follows:

- 1980 – An organ was purchased for the church
- 1988 – A new sign was made and erected at the church. At the same time signs were made for each end of the road to direct people to the church.
- 1989 – During this time a petition was circulated to get the road name changed from Gurley Dairy Road to Pleasant Hill Church Road. The endeavor failed and the road name remains the same.
- 1993 – During this year the church began its second biggest remodeling project in its history. Major changes were made in the Fellowship Hall. The main dining area and the kitchen area were enlarged. All new appliances were bought for the kitchen, and new flooring was laid throughout the building.

New restroom facilities were added at this time.

1994 – A handicap ramp was also installed on one side of the church during this year. The parking area of the church yard was graded and covered with fine rock. Parking barriers and handicap parking areas were also installed.

1995 – The church hooked onto the Northwest Wayne Sanitary Water District water lines. A portable baptistry was purchased for around \$1,500. Philip Croom was the first person baptized in the new baptistry. His baptism took place on November 5, 1995.

On October 15, 1995 the church celebrated its 100 year anniversary. The current pastor, the Rev. David Thick, brought the message. A covered dish dinner followed, and an afternoon service included singing and memorials for three deceased members. The church enjoys a wonderful fellowship. Total membership is 143. Of the 143 only 60 are inactive. That leaves 83 active members. The centennial celebration ended on November 12, 1995 with the loading and burial of a time capsule to be opened on October 18, 2020.

Danny and Leigh Tillman



*** 1996 Devotion Books ***

We are sorry to note that there were some mistakes in the 1996 Women's Auxiliary Devotion. Through material we received the incorrect information was given to us. The goal from each auxiliary should be \$25.00 not \$20.00. The correct listing for the Eastern District Officers is as follows:

President:	Mrs. Happy Taylor	Rt. 1, Box 187 Deep Run, NC 28525 919-523-9644
Vice President:	Mrs. Lorraine Garner	120 Cricket Lane Newport, NC 28570 919-223-5587
Recording Secretary:	Mrs. Nina Grace Register	604 Roundtree Street Kinston, NC 28501 919-527-1406
Field Secretary:	Mrs. Amy Scott	454 Loop Road Cove City, NC 28523 919-633-3782
Treasurer:	Ms. Velma Morris	1990 Bear Hole Road Vanceboro, NC 28586 919-244-0618
Missions Chairman:	Mrs. Shirley Forsythe	181 Oak Grove Road Newport, NC 28570 919-223-5994
Youth Chairman:	Mrs. Angie Piner	750 Ward Field Road Vanceboro, NC 28586 919-244-0389
Study Course Chairman:	Mrs. Lillian Grubbs	104 McGee Street Mount Olive, NC 28365 919-658-0123
Program-Prayer Chairman:	Mrs. Audrey Quinn	461 Wintergreen Road Cove City, NC 28523 919-638-6406
Benevolence Chairman:	Mrs. Mildred Jenkins	6900 Ten Mile Fork Road Trenton, NC 28585 919-224-4321
Camp Vandemere:	Mrs. Judith Kennedy	933-N NC 41 Pink Hill, NC 28572 919-298-4311

We are sorry for the inconvenience.

by Bobby Johnston

Back in the summer, as I was reading my August 1995 issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, I came across an excellent article entitled **The Call and Qualifications of Ministers** written by the Reverend Harry Grubbs. I was impressed with the article and gave some thought to writing Mr. Grubbs a note of support and to give him a hearty "Amen." Being a full time student at Mount Olive College and a full-time pastor, I found myself putting that note on the "back burner" and I never got around to writing Mr. Grubbs.

The months went by and along came the October issue of *The Free Will Baptist*. In this issue was an article entitled **The Rebuttal of a Concerned Christian** written by the Rev. Chuck Owens. In this article Mr. Owens expressed his concern and disagreement with several points in Mr. Grubbs' article. I thank Mr. Owens for expressing his opinion on this important issue of the qualification of ministers. However, I too felt the need to express my concerns — with his rebuttal.

First of all, I agree with both Mr. Grubbs and Mr. Owens that the call to be a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important call that one can receive, and I might add, the most humbling. I also agree with Mr. Grubbs that a call to ministry is a call to become qualified. I agree so strongly that I resigned my position with a major utility nuclear company and moved my family six hundred miles so that I could attend Mount Olive College. I stand amazed at the ways that God has worked in my life, opening and closing doors of opportunity, as I have worked to prepare myself for His service. I do not consider myself any more special than any other person whom God has called. I see no reason that God would afford me greater opportunity than anyone else.

While the term "ignorance is bliss" may have some small amount of psychological truth, it is not biblical. Yes, it is true that the Apostle Paul was a tent-maker. It is also true that he was well educated for his day (Acts 22:3; Gal. 1:13–14). According to Acts 7:22, Moses was well educated when he received a call from the Lord. As for Abraham Lincoln, he wanted to be educated. Poverty prevented him from obtaining a formal education.

Mr. Owens is correct when he states that formal education does not necessarily make good teachers, good lawyers, or good doctors. Might I also add that neither does twenty or thirty years of informal self-study of the Bible guarantee a good pastor. This is much in evidence in our own denomination if we consider the number of pastors without a church and the number of churches without a pastor.

I agree, no amount of formal education can substitute for the studying of God's Holy Word. The Bible must be the main book in a minister's education. How dare we, being mortal humans, attempt to limit God's Truth to one book — that being the Bible. All truth is God's truth, whether it be scientific, mathematical, or Scriptural truth. To say that one does not need to know science make no sense. How can I refute the Theory of Evolution if I'm afraid to study it and learn what it is — not what you heard it was, but what Darwin really said in his theory? Who's to say that I might not have an opportunity to witness to someone someday while helping him/her with their algebra homework? Anytime we choose to limit ourselves and not take advantage of the opportunities that God affords us, we limit our value to Him in His service.

To restrict oneself in the study of the Bible and of theology is also danger-

ous. By the time a person is old enough to enter the ministry, that person must be living their own faith. The demands of ministry are too great for someone who is still living the faith that they received from their parents or a Sunday school teacher. They have to have developed their own faith, their own personal relationship with God. They have to know what they believe and why they believe it. If not, they will be "swayed to and fro."

It has always seemed strange to me that those persons who express most vocally their belief and trust in the Bible are the first ones to criticize those who interpret or question the meaning of the Bible in any way. If the Bible is indeed God's Word to humanity, and I believe that it is, it will surely withstand any scrutiny that we mortals can give it. Christians and non-Christians alike have been scrutinizing it for hundreds of years whether we want to admit it or not.

If our doctrine is biblically based and sound, it will withstand any inspection and/or criticism. To limit one's study of the Bible and theology to one narrow way of thinking is to say: "I'm telling you that my way is the only true way to believe. You must not look elsewhere, you may discover that I'm wrong and my faith is too weak to handle that." The Bible has a word for those people: Pharisees. I'm a Free Will Baptist because I choose to be. If you choose not to be, that's between you and the Lord. To say that there is no reason to open our minds to any other beliefs is just that: not to open our minds!

Another portion of Mr. Owens' rebuttal that I must address is that of women in ministry. If we are to take every word of Scripture literally without considering its context at the time it was written, then 1 Timothy 3:2, "the



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In Defense of Formal Education for Ministers Cont...

husband of one wife", not only excludes women, it also excludes single men and widowers. If 1 Timothy 2:12 literally means that no woman is to teach or even speak in church, then how can we justify the fact that the majority of our Sunday school teachers are women? Can we deny that a great many of our churches today still have their doors open because of the faith and fortitude of a generation of our "Senior" saints (women), many whose husbands are deceased or simply "too busy" to come to church on Sunday morning?

I too have some reservation concerning the ordination of women as pastors. My reservation is based on the Scripture in Genesis 3:20-22. My personal belief is that there is some sig-

nificance to the fact that God chose to create woman from the rib of a man rather than from "dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7). I believe that God placed man in the charge of the home. But because we men have failed to live up to our responsibility and because of the sin of divorce, many women have been forced into the role of head of the household. Because we men have failed to answer the call to ministry, the church today finds itself in need of pastors and many churches have turned to women to meet their needs.

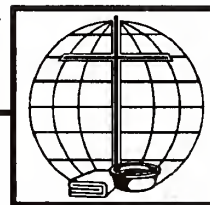
I do, however, see a greater need for women as deacons. If one of the jobs of the deacon is to "look after the widows and orphans," I see a potential problem. In this day and time with all

the problems concerning the abuse of women and children, I can see where men might feel uncomfortable, even afraid to minister to them.

I do not have the right to declare that women are not qualified to be pastor. I've heard women in the pulpit who were more qualified and more talented than myself. I'm simply stating my reservations. If God says OK, how dare I say "No Way!"

It is not my intention, in writing this letter, to hurt anyone's feelings. If I have, please accept my sincerest apology. I simply felt the need to express my personal opinion on this very important issue — the qualification of pastors.

Bobby Johnston



SCHOLARSHIP TO HONOR MARIAN KENNEDY

On Sunday, January 7, 1996, the Sunday School Department of the LaGrange First Free Will Baptist Church chose to honor one of its own, Marian Kennedy, through the establishment of the MARIAN KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP FUND, at Mount Olive College. Dr. J. William Byrd, President of Mount Olive College, was present to bring the morning message and to receive the first payment to the Scholarship Fund.

Miss Kennedy is the daughter of Raymond and Louie Kennedy of LaGrange. Currently, she is employed by the Lenoir County Board of Education at North Lenoir High School, as the Chorus Teacher and Cheerleading Coach.

Unselfishly, Miss Kennedy has given of her time and effort to the LaGrange First Free Will Baptist Church. She has been the Choir Director for the past twelve years, and directs numerous cantatas and youth presentations throughout the year especially at Christmas and Easter.

Miss Kennedy is a graduate of Mount Olive College. While at Mount Olive, she was a member of the Mount Olive College Singers, an academic Marshall, and Miss Mount Olive College. Miss Kennedy also attended Campbell University and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She received her Masters Degree in Music from East Carolina University, graduating with a perfect 4.0 average.

Miss Kennedy began her singing career at the LaGrange Church at an early age, well before her voice was fully developed. The Rev. L.B. Manning, pastor at the time, referred to her as his little "Song Bird."

The purpose of the Marian Kennedy Scholarship Fund is first, to provide educational opportunity for worthy and qualified students from the LaGrange First Free Will Baptist Church. Second, to provide enriched and expanded learning experiences, and to relate these experiences to citizenship development, career preparation, and services to the *college*, the *church*, and *humanity*.

To qualify, recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to attaining an education, of being hard working, self-reliant, self-motivated, diligent, and have academic promise.

Recipients must also enter into a written agreement with Mount Olive College, to participate in both prescribed academic studies and in a defined extra-curricular program. These include internships and service projects, as may be defined by the college.



The MARIAN KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP FUND is to be funded by the Sunday School Department of the LaGrange First Free Will Baptist Church, but may be enhanced by private contributions. Such contributions are welcome and may be made to Mount Olive College.

Dr. Byrd remarked at the Sunday service, "Mount Olive College is doubly honored that one of its graduates has served her church so well and that the church has chosen the college as the means to express its appreciation. Marian Kennedy is one of those intelligent, talented people that any college would be proud to serve and to claim among its graduates."

Part-time Manager Needed

Due to the resignation of the Rev. Ralph Sumner, Camp Vandemere is in need of a part-time manager. We would prefer someone who would be willing to live on campus and who enjoys working with young people. If interested, please contact our chairman, the Rev. Owen Arthur, Route 2, Box 482A, Richlands, NC 28574, 910-324-5934 after 5 pm.

Thank You

Mrs. E.C. Morris, of 500 Pickwick Trail, #248, Durham, NC 27704, wishes to thank all her friends in the churches, auxiliaries, and Sunday schools in North Carolina and Georgia, for all their cards, gifts, love, and prayers during 1995 and during the Christmas season. She sends her love and her sincere promise to continue to pray for each of you in the new year.

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Coming Events at Carolina Bible Institute

March 16th – Youth Workers Seminar

Directed by Brian Garris, Youth Director at Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

May (date to be announced) – The Pastor's Wife Seminar

Help for the pastor's wife in fulfilling that most important role.

Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church

cordially invites you to the
Ordination of
Todd Sutton

As God's Minister

On Sunday, February 11, 1996
at 3:00 pm

Reception to follow in
Fellowship building

Harrell's Chapel
Free Will Baptist Church
Highway 58 North
Snow Hill, North Carolina

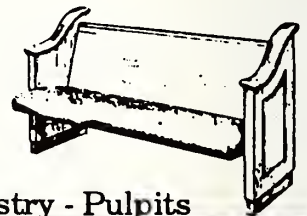
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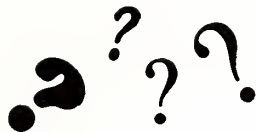
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*for your **FYI** information*

BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S BLESSINGS

STONEY CREEK FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING

FULL TIME STAFF POSITION — ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF VISITATION AND SENIOR CITIZENS MINISTRY

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Associate Pastor of Visitation and Senior Citizens Ministry is to be a fully involved staff member of Stoney Creek Church. He or she must possess a willingness to grow in knowledge of the work of our church and to attend conferences, seminars and workshops to enable him or her to maintain the best visitation program possible.

1. To organize and administer a comprehensive Senior Citizen's Ministry.

a. Regular visitations.

b. To work with The Senior Citizens Committee to plan functions and activities.

c. To involve more of our Senior Citizens in active ministry.

2. To organize a program of visitation for our shut-ins.

a. Personal visitation.

b. Involving other members of the church in a visitation ministry.

3. To establish and implement a program of visitation to reach out to prospective members.

a. Following up with those who visit Stoney Creek for the first time and those who express an interest in our church or the Lord.

b. Visiting new residents in our area, inviting them to our church and informing them of our various ministries.

c. Training members to become actively involved in an outreach ministry.

4. To assist pastors in a hospital and sick visitation on a rotating basis.

5. To assist pastors in other areas of ministry as needed.

Candidates should possess the experience and expertise necessary to fulfill the responsibility outlined above. Ordained Free Will Baptist ministers are preferred.

Interested individuals should send a letter of interest with a resume by February 29, 1996 to; The Board of Deacons, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534.

Registration Form

Cragmont Women's Morning Star Conferences • April 12 – 14, 1996

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

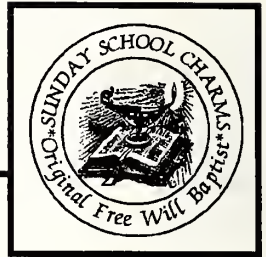
Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball

Route 1, Box 96-B • Grifton, North Carolina 28530

A balance of **\$25.00** will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

Please make plans now to attend the Summer Conferences: **June 3 – 8 • July 29 – August 3**



A LOOK AT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE

BY FRANK BAGETTE

Each year the Sunday School Board sponsors training in the form of the Sunday School Institute. This year the institute will be at Everett's Chapel in Clayton, NC on March 2. The theme of the institute will be a "Sunday School Extravaganza." We hope that this year's time of training will be the best ever. Many people have never attended one of the institutes. We encourage every Free Will Baptist to set aside the first Saturday in March this year to come and be a part of this wonderful happening.

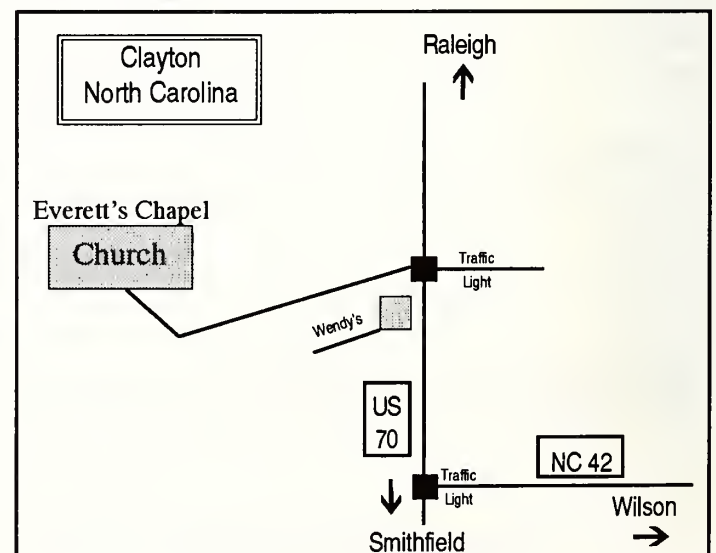
Some people may ask the question "why go to the institute." Maybe they think that since they are not Sunday school teachers, they do not need to get training. Others might think that since they have been teaching Sunday school for a number of years they do not need to receive training. To these people and others who are not planning to attend the institute, I would like to suggest some reasons that they need to attend. First, all followers of Jesus need to continually equip themselves to be better disciples. Paul instructed Timothy to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Remember Timothy was not some new comer to the faith. He had been raised by a godly mother and grandmother who had been teaching him to love God since his youth. Paul thought however that Timothy needed to continue to improve his knowledge of God's Word. Paul knew that all Christians need to continue to better equip themselves to be all they can be for Jesus Christ. Equipping ourselves does several things. It helps us live and serve as effective members of the body of Christ. We all need to understand God's Word to be more effective Christian disciples. As Christians we need to develop a systematic understanding of the Word of God. We need to understand what we believe and why we believe it. All Christians would benefit by having an organized belief system that they can apply to their everyday life. Equipping ourselves also helps us grow in our character so that we might be better witnesses for Christ. People have opportunities all during their lives in which they can share the love of Christ with others. Sometimes it is with a smile, a hug, a word of advice. We need to prepare ourselves so when those opportunities arise, we will be ready.

Second, leaders and teachers need to learn new techniques and methods to better impact today's society. Society is changing everyday around Free Will Baptists. Technology is becoming more advanced everyday. People are receiving more education today than ever before. People do not think or reason the same way they did fifty, twenty, ten or even five years ago. The church has got to come up with new strategies, techniques, and methods to reach people for Christ and teach them His Word. I am not talking about changing the message. God's Word is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His Word will never change, but the way we present that Word will change. Let me give you an example. My great-grandfather was a farmer. His purpose

of farming was to raise the best crop that he could to help support his family. He would go out into the fields with his mule and plow using the best techniques that he knew trying his best to have a good crop. Today farmers still have the purpose of raising the best crop that they can. But you would be hard pressed to find a man in Eastern North Carolina who is a serious farmer going out in his fields with a mule and plow. No, they have big tractors and use all the conveniences and technology of today to help raise their crops. The purpose has not changed, just the method. I am afraid though that we are still using the mule and plow methods when it comes to Christian Education. As responsible Christians we need to equip ourselves with the very best methods and latest techniques so that we may do our best to teach God's Word and win others to Christ.

Third, coming to the institute will allow us to interact with other Free Will Baptists and learn from their experiences. Each church in our convention is different. We have all tried different things and had different experiences. We can all learn from each other. We need to pick up new ideas that have been successful for others and learn from other people's mistakes. Many times churches and church members get so internally drawn that we think the only way to do things is the way that we have always done them. We need to learn how other churches and people are doing things. Who knows, somebody else might have a good idea that we can use to better what we are doing. Milliken & Company published a definition some time back that we may need to take a look at. They said insanity is "Doing what we have always done in the past and expecting different results!" Some of us need to take a close look at what we are doing and see if we might do things in a better way.

See you at the institute on March 2!!!





SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE SEASONS OF LIFE

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

Here we are in the dead of winter. The world about us is cold, bleak and barren, but let us not despair. God has built order and rhythm into the universe and without any effort or stress on our part, the chilly winds of winter will soon give way to the warm breezes of spring.

Not only does nature have its seasons, our lives also have a spring, summer, autumn and winter. One of the rewards of becoming a senior citizen is that we live long enough to experience all four seasons. So, let us look at the seasons of nature and see what they teach us about the seasons of life.

Spring

In nature, spring is the time for preparing the soil, planting, fertilizing, cultivating, and growing. In life, spring is the time of birth, nurturing, developing, and learning. As we enter our Golden Years, experiences from the spring-time of life become increasingly meaningful.

Recently, a friend now in her eighties let me read some of her personal writings. Although she included reference to her long and successful professional career, it was her childhood that received the greatest attention. She remembered with tenderness the love and care of her mother and the special attention she received from her grandparents during summer visits.

Spring is a formative season of life which in large measure determines the outcome of the seasons which follow. An unknown author has expressed this truth in these words:

"Sow a Thought, and you reap an Act;
Sow an Act, and you reap a Habit;
Sow a Habit, and you reap a Character;
Sow a Character, and you reap a Destiny."

Summer

With a coming of summer, the blossoms of spring have given birth to tender fruit, and the seeds which were placed in God's good earth have germinated into growing plants. Everything is green, and we watch with great hope and expectation as the crops fill out and mature.

The summer of life is much like the summer of nature.

These are the busy years when we are working long and hard to build our careers, to establish our business, to buy our home, and rear our children. It is the productive period of life when we are trying to get ahead, when we seek to excel and when no challenge is too great for us. Our goal is to climb the ladder of success and be prosperous. The demands and opportunities of the season absorb us and it is easy to get buried in our work.

But at some point, our bodies begin to tell us that they cannot keep up this pace, and then we are faced with the whole new set of questions about our future. It is time to begin turning over our business to our children? What about retirement or semi-retirement? Is it time to change jobs and seek a work that is less stressful? Everyone's circumstances are different but the issues are much the same. It is time to reassess our goals and to reevaluate our game plan for life.

At some point, summer ends and autumn begins.

Autumn

In many ways autumn is the most beautiful season of the year. It is when the leaves reach their fullest color, and when nature yields the harvest of spring and summer.

Autumn can also be the most beautiful season of our lives. It is a time for intellectual and spiritual maturity, a time when we can see more clearly the meaning and purpose of our lives, a time when we can enjoy more fully the relationships of family and friends which have been nurtured through the years. It is a time when we can more effectively distinguish between what is important and what is not and develop a more accurate perspective on the true value of life.

Autumn is the harvest season of life, a time when we can enjoy the fruits of our labor. But even more, it is the time when we can reap a spiritual harvest from the painful and difficult experiences through which God has led us. Indeed, autumn can be our Golden Years.

Autumn is a time when we come more fully to appreciate the dawn of each day as a gift from God. Autumn is the time to make final preparations for winter. Paul Tournier, an internationally known Swiss physician, spoke for all of us when

he wrote, "Life is the crucial game which we play only once. This game must of necessity end in victory or defeat."

And so we come to winter.

Winter

God in His wisdom and love has made winter not only a season of nature but also a season of human experience. In nature there is no way we can go from autumn to spring except through winter, and the same is true in life. We are sustained, however, by the faith that beyond winter is spring.

In one of the classics of Christian devotion, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, which dates back to the 17th Century, Brother Lawrence relates that his conversion took place

in the winter when he saw a tree stripped of its leaves, and considered that with the coming of spring the leaves would be renewed, and after that the flowers and fruit would appear.

God is eternal, and as Christians we believe He has created us in His image. The purpose of our pilgrimage through all the seasons of life is to grow in His likeness and to do so is an experience that transcends the mortality of our bodies. The greatest assurance of the Christian faith is that by participating in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pass from the winter of our earthly life into the spring of Eternal life.

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The Pastor and Church
For Ministry

First Free Will Baptist Church
2426 South Charles Blvd.
Greenville, NC
April 27, 1996
9 a.m.

Registration: \$10 per person or \$25 per church

W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator
Presenter

For More Information Contact:

Rev. Scott Sowers

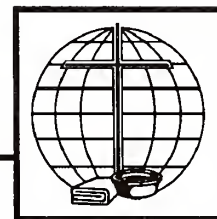
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Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



DAY OF PRAYER

The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, has proclaimed February 23, 1996, as a day of prayer for Original Free Will Baptists. Every Free Will Baptist and Free Will Baptist church has been asked to set aside the day to pray for our denomination. Information has been mailed to each church with suggestions for observing the day.

The Day of Prayer was born out of discussions between the Executive Administrator and the Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, the Rev. David C. Hansley. Because of a desire to involve more people and to embrace a broader focus of prayer than the All-night Prayer Services of the past, and because of feedback from participants of previous all-night sessions, alternative formats are being suggested. Churches or groups of churches may still choose to use the all-night format, but other formats are also possible.

The theme for this Convention year is "The Call to Prayer." Throughout the year, there will be a number of special prayer events. You and your church are encouraged to participate in all of these special prayer events and services. God grants renewal to those who ask for it (2 Chronicles 7:14).

PRAYER MINISTRY

"Prayer motivates faith, love, and unity in the body of Christ, and keeps the Spirit in control of all ministries within the body. Prayer is the fuel that will keep our ministries going in the right direction" (George Reser). To accomplish our purpose, we must remember the following:

1. Learn to "listen" for special needs of new Christians and ministry workers.

2. Be confidential. Private prayers belong to you and to God alone.

3. Give God the glory for answers. Worship, praise, and thank Him.

4. Pray with confidence. God has given you faith to believe He cares.

5. Pray without ceasing.

PAUL'S PRAYER PATTERN

Sometimes we may wonder how to pray for missionaries, church leaders, and others we have never met. The Apostle Paul had never met the Colossians, but he faithfully prayed for them. His prayers teach us how to pray for others, whether we know them or not. We can request that they:

1. Understand God's will.
2. Gain spiritual wisdom.
3. Live lives pleasing and honoring to God.
4. Do kind things for others.
5. Know God better and better.
6. Be filled with God's strength.

7. Endure in faith.

8. Stay full of Christ's joy.

9. Always be thankful.

All believers have these same basic needs. When you do not know how to pray for someone, remember Paul's prayer pattern and pray accordingly (George Reser).

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a new church. The Western Conference received Wildwood Church into its membership. The Rev. Eddie Franks serves as pastor of this church, which is located near Raleigh. Be much in prayer for this congregation and pastor.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 29-30, 1996

Board Development Conference
Hampton Inn, Kinston

April 27, 1996

Lay Ministry Seminar
First Free Will Baptist Church
Greenville

WHEN YOU PRAY

The people that lead our denomination and ministries need your prayers. When you pray, pray for the directors and staff of the following:

Headquarters
Children's Home
Church Finance Association
Convention of OFWB
Cragmont Assembly
Foreign Missions

Free Will Baptist Press
Home Missions and Evangelism
Minister's Program
Mount Olive College
Retirement Homes
Sunday School Board

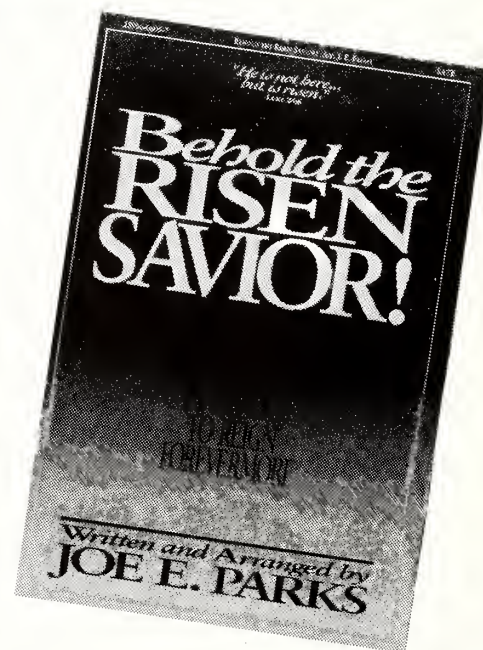
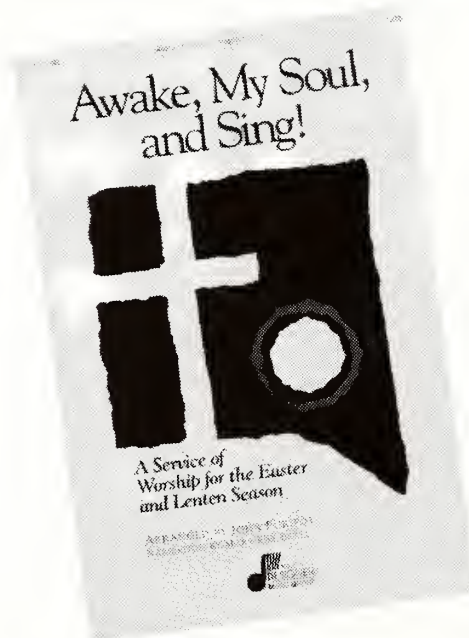
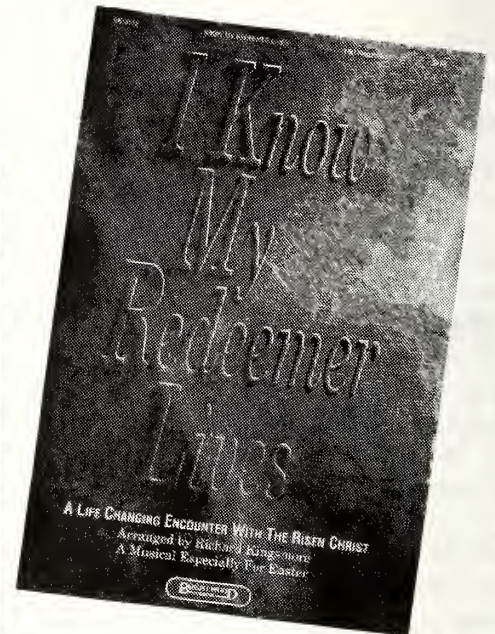
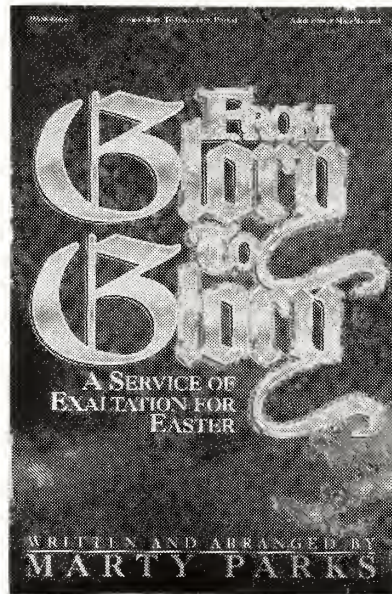
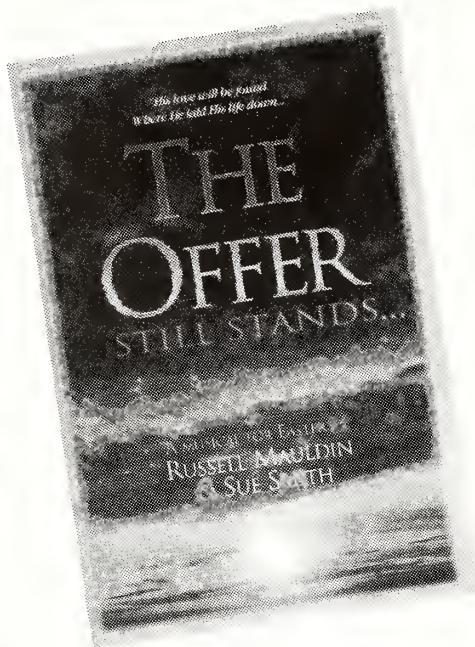
Also pray for:

Your pastor(s)
Your local church leaders
Your church
All Christians and churches

Ask the Lord of the Harvest for...

Ministers
Missionaries
Leaders
Lost people to be saved

Your Source For Good Easter Musicals



Available at Your Local Bible and Bookstore

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Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

How many times have you ever looked into a friend's eyes and not been able to say what is on your mind or your heart? How many times have you not been able to say anything but the person you are looking at knows what you want to say?

Whether it be your best friend, parents, sister, brother, or spouse there is someone who knows what you want to say. That true friend is Jesus Christ. In a month dedicated to showing expressions of love among people, our example should be God.

God's love is unconditional. He loves us no matter what we do to try to disappoint Him or each other. Just like a friend, his arms reach out to us to calm our fears and to dry our tears.

As Valentine's Day approaches, let us take time to show how much we love each other. Most importantly lets us take some time to show how much we love God for what He has done as the prime example of what love should be.

In His Service,

Tracy
😊

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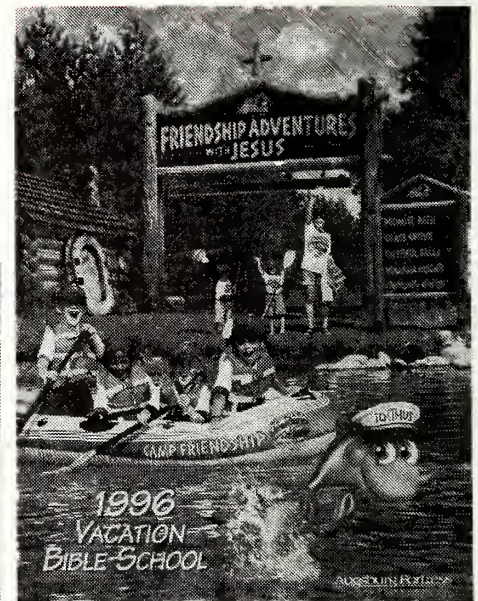
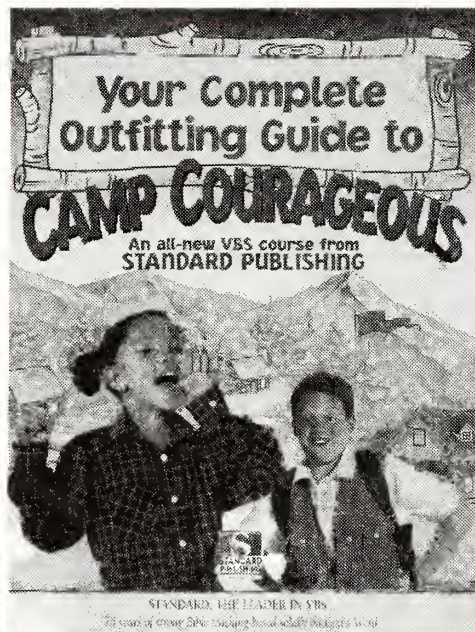
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March 7th Vacation Bible School Workshop

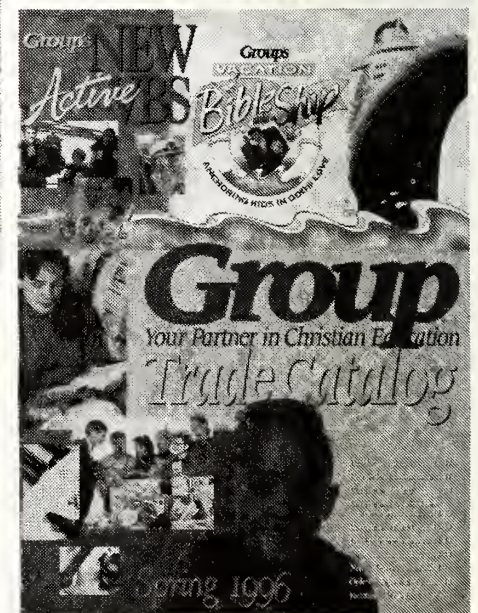
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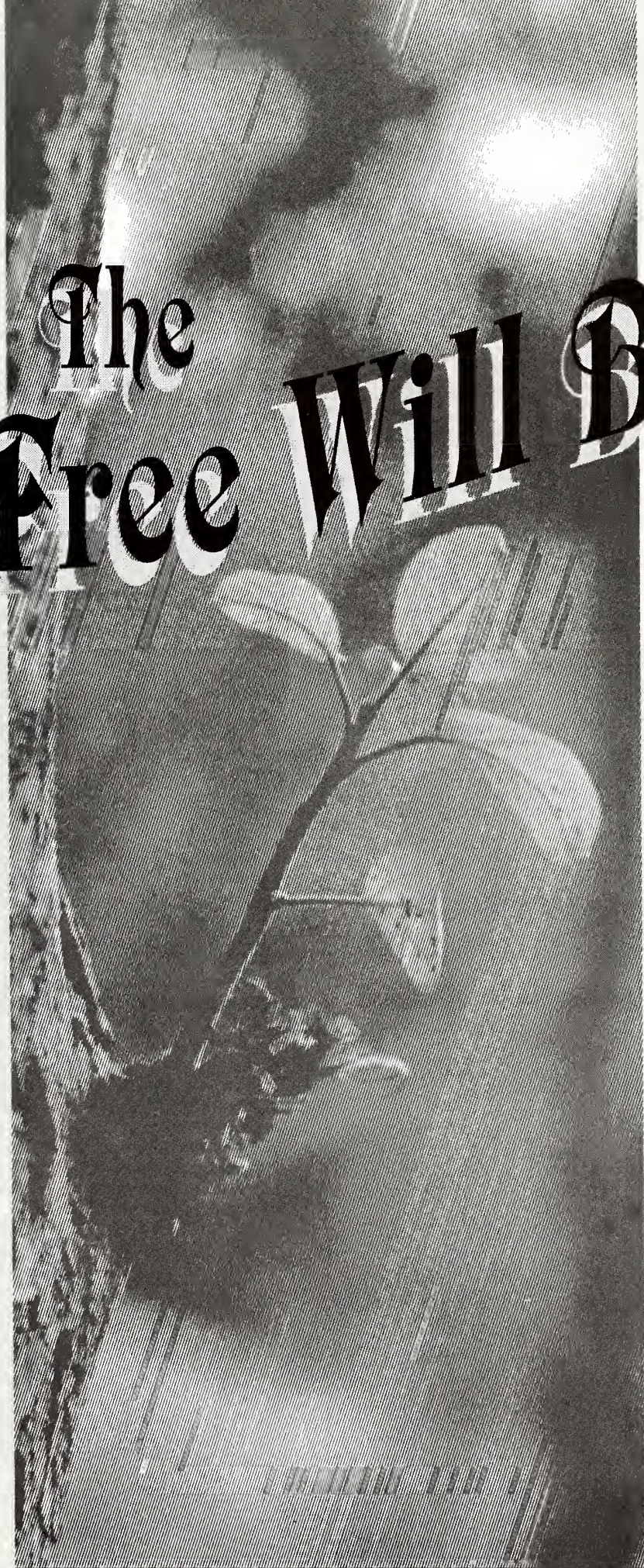
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The Free Will Baptist

March 1996

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NEXT MONTH

**April is
Home Missions
and
Evangelism Month**

**March is
Foreign Missions
Month**



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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Denominational Ministries

Importance Of The Annual Foreign Missions Telethon

by Harold Jones

The telethon was started in March 1980 and has grown steadily over the years. It now provides one fourth of the yearly Foreign Missions budget. The colorful inserts and bulletins that are sent to all the churches for use in March are for the purpose of stirring our hearts for the lost and encourage the participation of each church member in reaching the lost with the Gospel through prayer and giving.

Thank you for using the materials. Thank you for sharing.

Pray For The Short Term Teams In Mexico

June 15–25 and July 13–23, 1996

by Harold Jones

Plans are well under way for the two short term teams that will minister in Mexico this summer. The plans for the parsonage that we will construct have been drawn and the cost has been determined. God has brought the teams together who know how to construct a building from the ground up. Plans for Vacation Bible School are being developed, as well as other ministries that the team will be involved in during our stay. There are approximately thirty members on each team.

Pray for the following:

Harmony and cooperation

Servants heart

Financial needs of each team member (team members are responsible for raising their own support – \$500 each)

Finances to construct the parsonage (\$2,625)

Safety in travel

Health of all team members

Clearance at border

The team will be a true blessing to the people in Mexico



March is
Foreign Missions Month
Support the Annual Foreign Missions Telethon

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1996

THEME: RENEW OUR VISION

(A PRAYER)

Theme Verse: "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18a.

Where there is vision, the people flourish.
Harold Jones

The Telethon, Day of Prayer for Revival, and World Missions is an opportune time to seek the Lord for renewal. From renewal comes great missions endeavor and giving.



(919) 746-4963

GOAL 1996: A total of \$110,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if every church and individual will trust the Lord in prayer for His provision and give according to His supply. Giving gladly so others can hear of Jesus Christ is a true sign of renewal.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 pm. Dial (919) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday gives evidence of a renewed vision and love for the lost around the world.

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. WHEN WE GIVE, HE GIVES MUCH MORE IN RETURN.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS
MARCH 24, 1996

Revival comes when God's people see the need for revival and earnestly seek Him through prayer. Revival gives a new vision of God's purpose for the Church.

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:12-13.

The Lord has promised to hear our earnest prayers and reveal Himself to us when we seek Him. Revival is simply seeking the constant fullness of God in our life and living daily to glorify Him in word and deed.

Let's give ourselves to this kind of prayer and believe God to revive us personally and the Church as a whole.

PRAYER GOAL 1996: All churches joining together in united prayer during the Worship Hour, March 24, 1996.
LET US PRAY!



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN
MISSIONS**
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Phone: 919-746-4963

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1996

AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE

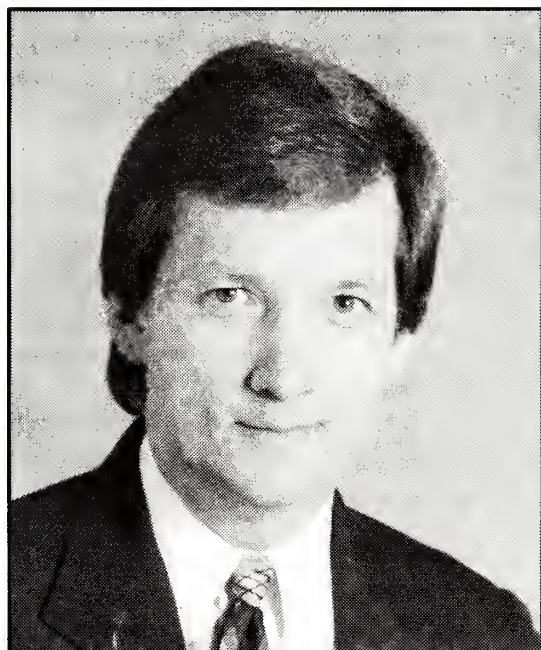
ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

PLACE: Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
(Highway 421, Dunn, NC)

TIME: 5:00 pm Opening Service
6:00 pm Light snack provided by BFM with
the generous help of the host church.
7:00 pm Closing Service
Special Music by host church



Speaker: The Rev. Scott McHugh

President of Days of Heaven Ministries, Inc., an organization committed to facilitating spiritual awakening and world evangelism. He has taught Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Seminars across the United States. He has been a guest teacher for the Metro Bible Study in Atlanta and worked with Dan DeHaan as an associate teacher for the National Institute of Biblical Studies. He is senior pastor of the Church at North Point in Atlanta, Georgia.

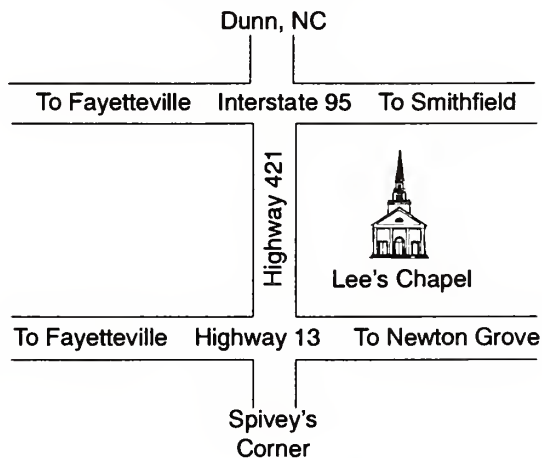
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. PRAY DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.

The Conference will be over by 8:00 pm so you will not be so late returning home.

The Board decided to change the Conference to Sunday, in order to give more people an opportunity to participate. We encourage churches to call off their evening service and join us for this special time of renewal.

THEME: PRAYER — RENEWAL — MISSIONS

The Church is located on Highway 421 between Dunn and Spivey's Corner.



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN
MISSIONS**
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Phone: 919-746-4963

To The Beach

Every day for a week, the little children approached me with the same question like on a repeating tape: "Janan, please let us go to the beach and swim and lay in the sand." They became tougher when I did not answer them. "If you don't take us to the beach then you don't love us at all," they responded. We discussed the possibilities of the budget and decided that we should make some money available for sandwiches and beach-tickets. We were to leave at ten o'clock, but they all were present at 8 o'clock am.

It took us two hours to prepare the sandwiches, we had to cut 15 large loaves of bread.

On our way to the beach we all sang: "Jordan's River Is Deep And Wide, Meet My Father At The Other Side, Hallelujah." The Hallelujahs were strong and loud. We all know that we have to be careful, and when we reached the main road, they kept silent. It was amazing that they were walking now like angels; it was unbelievable that they behaved that way.

When I bought the beach tickets all of them were still around me. At the moment that I placed the bags under the beach umbrella they were all gone into the water. Then the clouds moved in, the wind became stronger, the temperature dropped and it began to rain.

Many people left the beach, but we covered ourselves with our towels and sought shelter under the beach umbrella.

They asked me: "Janan, why is it raining; we prayed for good weather and now it is raining." I answered them, "God wants a prayer from the depth of your heart, not long but genuine. He listens to your heart. Even if it is short, he listens to your prayers." There they were sitting on the sand, wet of the rain, with their towels wrapped around them and praying silently.

After one hour the sun broke through the clouds and they were so happy. They began to shout: "Sun, the sun is shining again."

Some of them don't have food at home everyday, and I was really happy to see them swimming and eating all the time. Every time when they came out of the water their mouths were moving and their eyes were shining with happiness and joy.

In the afternoon they all got very tired of swimming, eating and laughing; it was time to go home. We had an unforgettable day and everybody was very happy. On their way home they were too tired to sing "Hallelujah", and Shoko, Samet's brother, said: "Thank you God for the warm sun and for the sea, but above all thank you for all the sandwiches which you provided."

One of the girls complained: "O, it is so hot I am sweating all over." Shoko answered her: "Don't you think that God was even hotter when He made the sun? I am sure that He

hurt Himself, but did He complain?"

It was beautiful to hear such child-logic.

We were all very happy and thankful to be able to return home safely. Thank you Lord for these little walking, talking people, your children. Thank you that You take care of them, too, and that You love them so much.

Janan.



Christmas Highlight

by Dr. E. M. Lall

The Christmas Season is more popular in India than any other season of the Christian calendar. Christmas is close to the heart of Christians around the world and to celebrate the birth of Christ adds deeper meaning to our faith.

Christmas is the only festival being acknowledged by the Indians, as it brought a great impact upon the people of our country. Christmas has a history which the entire world acknowledges as before or after Christ. A stirring message was preached, stressing the defilement of man of God, His spiritual reconciliation with man, thus again affording opportunity or regeneration to man through His sheer love and kindness being the only God Almighty and none else.

All the churches in India and Nepal celebrate Christmas with joy and enthusiasm. Our rural churches are less privileged, while the urban churches have various facilities such as illuminating the church buildings, singing carols, observing the candlelight service, holding rallies, exhibiting the manger scene and gathering for a big Worship Service, etc. The urban churches, under the shadow of the news media, highlight the Christmas Festival.

Likewise, the newsmen rushed to our church at Bareilly and spoke highly about our Christmas activities, so much so that various Hindi daily newspapers brought out our church photographs, etc. on the front page which is very rare. Not only this, our church program, together with the photo of our church building at Bareilly, was shown on television

Christmas Highlight Cont....

which made history as our church was among six churches which were brought out on television on December 25-27, 1995.

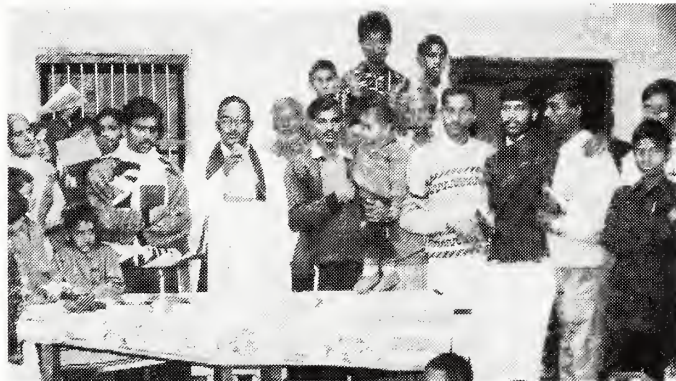


Christmas Worship Service in Bareilly

Reports from rural churches are also encouraging. The Spirit of the Lord is moving in all our churches and the schools which are marching ahead.



Christmas drama by Sunday school children in Bareilly



Rural celebration of Christmas at Asalpur



Christmas Worship Service in Bareilly

The Alpha and Omega Free Will Baptist Church Mexico

by Antonio Escobar

The Alpha and Omega Church, pastored by the Rev. Eleazar Lugo Rodriguez, united with our Original Free Will Baptist Conference on March 11, 1995, while all churches were in Convention and was accepted by the assembly. This church has an active membership of 45.

Brother Eleazar is a young pastor. He began his ministry in 1992, after he had completed the Evangelism Explosion Program. He began his ministry of witnessing in homes and won many families to the Lord. These families formed the Alpha and Omega Church. They brought land and constructed a House of Worship. They are now working on a second building to house the Sunday school.

I praise the Lord for the opportunity of being the initiator of the ministry of Brother Eleazar. I had the opportunity to take him to an Evangelism Explosion Seminar and spent one week there with him. He gave his life to the ministry and has demonstrated a great

love for it to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I ask your prayers for this young church and its pastor and his family, that they may continue to grow in the work of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S HOME ALUMNI PLAN

50TH HOMECOMING

This year the Free Will Baptist Children's Home Alumni Association will celebrate their 50th Homecoming Reunion at the Children's Home on July 14, 1996. The Alumni Homecoming Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to prepare for the event. The committee includes Alumni members and representatives from the Children's Home and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The goal of this year's Homecoming is to raise attendance of Alumni members and to make Homecoming more exciting. Many changes are expected to take place including an improved program. This year an international motivational speaker named Richard Flint will address the audience. The Alumni Association is also welcoming any Free Will Baptist Church that was a church sponsor to attend. Everyone is excited about this year's Homecoming.

The next meeting will be held at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home on March 9, 1996. For information, please contact the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Alumni Officers

President Judy Aycock Warren
 Vice President Billy Hines
 Secretary & Treasurer Cora Jones Walker
 Member-At-Large Burkette Raper
 Memorial Chairman Burkette Raper



President of Alumni Association-Judy Aycock Warren and Vice President-Billy Hines



Scenes from Children's Home



Scenes from Children's Home



Scenes from Children's Home

Retirement Homes

Appreciation

In January, Retirement Homes had to replace a roof on the home containing two duplex apartments located at the corner of Lee and Power Street in Ayden, NC. The cost including new flashing and edging, was \$3,491.31

We sent out an appeal to select churches and individuals to help cover this cost. We are happy to report that we received more than enough. The roof has been installed and paid for, thanks to Free Will Baptist people and churches.

Below is a list of the churches who have already responded:

Beaverdam	(Pee Dee)
Hugo	(Central)
Juniper Chapel	(Eastern)
Macedonia	(Eastern)
Mt. Tabor	(Albemarle)
New Haven	(Eastern)
Rose of Sharon	(Central)
Snow Hill	(Eastern)
Sound Side	(Albemarle)
Warden's Grove	(Eastern)
White Oak	(Pee Dee)
Nathan Hinkle	(Cabin-Eastern)

Thank you, and may God bless you. Pray for us daily!

Free Will Baptist
 Retirement Homes
 Walter J. Sutton, Director

From Commission to Commitment

Williamsons go to Florida—

In response to an additional call of ministry, the Reverend Aubrey Williamson has accepted the responsibility to serve as a Church Planter for the Florida-Georgia area. He will also serve as director/pastor of the St. Cloud Mission/Church in St. Cloud, Florida. Shown below with his wife Carla, Aubrey holds the plaque designating him as a Church Planter which was presented to him at a special Commissioning Service held on the first Friday night in December of 1995 at the Saratoga Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Aubrey has been a Free Will Baptist Minister for many years, most recently serving as pastor at Saratoga. To make a decision to leave an established congregation to go and grow a new church requires a great deal of prayer, thought and commitment. Aubrey, Carla and their three boys spent much time in prayer and discussion before making such a decision. After making the decision a great deal of work had to take place before making the move.

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, of which Aubrey was a member, had to properly organize their efforts and coordinate with the mission in St. Cloud.



Arrangements had to be made for housing and after much investigation it was determined that the better choice would be to build. Then property had to be acquired and a house plan selected; a builder must be chosen, so time dragged on.

The Commissioning service was held, after which a reception was held in the fellowship hall for the Williamsons and their many guests. In the picture at right, Charles, Bryan and Philip are shown with a map of Florida which would be their new home.

Then came more planning and the packing, followed by loading the big trailer and both of the Williamson vehicles.



HOME MISSIONS

Finally the big day arrives. For the movers, January 17, 1996, began at 6:00 a.m., as the big trailer started its trek to Florida through heavy fog. It ended 20 hours later in Kissimmee, Florida, also in fog and drizzle. The trip itself, though long and tiring, went well except for one flat tire on Aubrey's van. The next day, after a night's rest and a big breakfast the "crew" made it to the new house at St. Cloud, arriving just after 11:00 a.m. The welcome mat was out. Mr. Barney Veal, the Realtor who sold us the land, was on hand spreading old carpet to avoid tracking excess dirt into the new house.

Roney and Jean Bunn, from Marsh Swamp Church,

were also there to help unload. Jean was soon dubbed "blanket lady" because she got the job of folding the blankets which had been used to pad the furniture. It was decided to unload the boxes into the garage and carry the furniture into the house and as soon as the trailer was in position the process began. Soon one began to wonder how all that "stuff" had gotten into the trailer, but the work went well. Mrs. Suzette Howse came by and left a sandwich and condiments for lunch (it was enough, it was about four feet long and nearly a foot wide). The sandwich was good, and made even better by the exercise of unloading. Before long the garage had boxes stacked almost everywhere and the furniture was all in the house. Then it was time to put a few things in place. The beds were assembled, with foundations and mattresses in place; sheets etc., were left until the correct box could be located. The appliances were all in their proper locations, even if they were not properly connected. Now reality was stark.

The Williamsons were in St. Cloud, Florida, their new home.

Commission had led to a commitment of action that demonstrated the faith of a family, a ministry and a denomination. The entire group went to the Church, not far away, and there we gave thanks to God and asked His guidance and strength for the enterprise which had begun. Everyone, realized that the task was not finished, but just begun. It will take the determined effort of the Williamson family and the committed, praying, support of every Original Free Will Baptist to do this job; and it will never be completed. For as long as there are people in need of a Savior the task will continue.



At right is the exterior of the house which is the residence of our church planter in Florida and below is the first family to live there. We have seen much accomplished, for which we give God the glory, and extend our appreciation to each person involved in this ministry. In addition to those already mentioned a special thanks goes to: Mr. Ron Howse, who has helped more that we can ever list; Mr. John L. Davis, our general contractor, who has given far more than good value; The Reverend Al Markuson and the Reverend Harry A. Jones, Sr., who went and helped on the trip itself; the good people of Saratoga Original Free Will Baptist Church, who sent their pastor to the mission field and every person who prayed and gave support for this project. Of course, Aubrey and Carla and Charles, Bryan and Philip all also say thank you for all you have done.



The new address for the Williamson family is: 3000 Old Canoe Creek Rd., St. Cloud, FL 34772 and their telephone number is (407) 892-3917.

Write and encourage them, call and cheer them up, let them know you are praying for them. If you are in the area go by and visit the St. Cloud Mission/Church and worship with them. Remember, the real work is yet to be done and you can help. This kind of endeavor is costly, send your contributions to Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Contact us for other ways you can help and always remember to pray for Home Missions and Evangelism and all our Church's Ministries.

Let your love and concern reach out to all people everywhere.





MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The College's Reason To Be — Its Students

Meet Brad Williamson

by Mike Nason

He has only been here for two months, but Bradford Ray Williamson is already feeling comfortable in his new environment at Mount Olive College.

Brad, 19, transferred to Mount Olive College from NC State in January. He is in his second year of college majoring in religion. Five years from now, Brad sees himself as a youth minister or associate pastor at a Free Will Baptist Church.

Hailing from Rocky Mount, Brad is the son of Ray and Evelyn Williamson. His dad attended Mount Olive College for a brief time and later served as a trustee of the college from 1983 to 1989. Currently, Mr. Williamson is the pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount.

Brad also has a sister, Cherry, 16, whom Brad says aspires to be a missionary.

"We are extremely close as a family," Brad said with a noticeable measure of pride. "I consider myself to be fortunate to have strong Christian parents as God intended."

Brad said that it wasn't until recently that he felt a call to the ministry. This calling motivated his transfer from NC State to Mount Olive College.

The decision to accept this special calling to the ministry didn't come easily for Brad.

"This past summer I started wrestling with what my calling was and what talents I had," Brad explained. "The more I thought about it, the more interested I became."

Through prayer, reading the Bible, and a lot of thinking, Brad said that he came to the realization that God was calling him. Once this calling crystallized, Brad said that it then became a matter of going before the church and declaring his intentions. Fortunately, the congregation approved. Brad is now scheduled to appear before the Board of Ordination in April.

"Since Mount Olive College is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, I felt this would be the best place to continue my education," Brad said.

Switching from a campus of 27,000 students to a campus with approximately 600 students brings with it dramatic differences.

"What's good about Mount Olive College is that everyone knows you and cares about your well being," Brad said. "They honestly want you to leave here with knowledge you can use in the real world."

With men living in one residence hall, Brad said that in two months he now knows just about everyone on campus. At NC State, with its many dorms, he said that it just wasn't possible to meet more than a few people on your floor.

Brad misses the excitement of being a big Division 1 school for its athletics programs. "I've pulled for NC State teams since I was little," Brad said. "Even though I'm here, I can still be a Wolfpack fan." But, he has no regrets. He's happy with his decision and came to Mount Olive College knowing what the trade-

offs were.

Outside the classroom, Brad likes sports in general and reading. He played tennis at SouthWest Edgecomb High School in Pinetops. He watches both college and professional teams. He describes himself red-blooded, sociable, and level-headed.

Brad is a welcome addition to the Mount Olive College student body. In two short months, he has woven himself into the fabric of campus life.

In future issues, we will introduce you to other students to give you an idea of who our students are, where they come from, and what's on their minds. Over time, these profiles will give readers a feeling for the environment being cultivated at Mount Olive College.



Mount Olive College's Greatest Asset — Its People

Meet Sonya McCoy

by Mike Nason

Any good president will freely admit that a company or institution's greatest asset is its people. This is particularly true when the institution is a four-year, liberal arts college established for the purpose of providing a Christian education for men and women.

In this context, Ms. Sonya Faye McCoy is a bright star on the faculty of

Mount Olive College. Sonya is an assistant professor in the Department of Business. Beyond her impressive academic credentials, she is respected by students and colleagues for her involvement with students in and out of the classroom.

"She takes time to work with students," said Ms. Dorothy Whitley, academic

dean of the college. "Additionally, Sonya is a caring student advisor, has taught Freshman seminar a number of times, and served as faculty co-advisor to a very active and successful student business organization, Phi Beta Lambda."

"I'm happy here because I like the atmosphere," Sonya said. "I value the student teacher relationship, and Mount Olive College is a place where you can get to know students."

"The opportunity is here for students to approach their instructors for help or guidance if that's what they want," Sonya said. "Instructors know their students' names and are more accessible here than at larger colleges and universities."

Students have responded well to Sonya McCoy's mentorship. According to Dean Whitley, Sonya consistently receives favorable evaluations from students regarding the quality of her instruction and her concern for students, and she is respected by her colleagues. As a further testament to the affection many students hold for their former teacher, she has been invited to many weddings and baby showers.

Sonya has been on both sides of the desk at Mount Olive College — first as a student from 1978 to 1980, and then as a faculty member since 1984. In between, she also attended Atlantic Christian College, now Barton, in Wilson, where she completed her bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and East Carolina University where she earned a Master's in Business Administration.

At Mount Olive College, Sonya teaches courses in economics, accounting, marketing, and retailing. She is also faculty co-advisor to Phi Beta Lambda, a business organization established to provide students with opportunities to develop business skills beyond the classroom. Students in this program have fared very well competing against students from other colleges and universities in state and national competitions.

Sonya attributes her strong work ethic and concern for students to her family and upbringing. She and her younger brother were raised on the family farm in Lenoir County. Her father, Billy Ray McCoy, and brother, Billy Ray Jr., continue to work the farm even today.

Sonya's mother, Mrs. Elsie McCoy, is retired after a career as a registered nurse and administrator at the Caswell Center in Kinston. She continues to be active in the church and spearheads the annual Mount Olive College dinners in Lenoir County.

A lifetime member of the Hugo Free Will Baptist Church in Lenoir County, Sonya commutes from her residence in Mount Olive to her home church where she sings in the choir and serves as assistant secretary for the Sunday school.

Beyond work and church, Sonya enjoys reading, walking, sports spectating, and travelling. She is also an active member of the Southern Wayne County Business and Professional Women's Club.

"Mount Olive College is indeed fortunate to have Sonya McCoy on staff," Dean Whitley said. "People like her make this college unique and special to our students."



Best of luck to Mr. Mike Nason. He has just recently been named Director of Public Information at Mount Olive College. He is also helping the English department by teaching some of their classes.

Cultural Events in March

Three cultural events occur in March. Two are under the auspices of the Department of Fine Arts and one is under the Department of Language and Literature. The events are free, and church members are invited.

The first event is "Aurora Musicalis," scheduled for Monday, March 11, 1996, at 7:30 pm in Rodgers Chapel. The event was cancelled in early February due to an ice storm.

"Aurora Musicalis" is a chamber ensemble composed of members of the North Carolina Symphony. The ensemble, consisting of a violinist, cellist, clarinetist, and pianist, will play selections by Glinka, Stravinsky, Brahms, and Beethoven.

Next, a student recital, consisting of voice and piano, will occur on March 25, 1996, at 7:30 pm, also in Rodgers Chapel. Eight students under the direction of Associate Professor Irene Weldon will perform.

Finally, a poet and a fiction writer will be at Mount Olive College on March 28, 1996, to read from their works and answer questions about their crafts. This presentation is part of the Olive Branch Writers Series, a program to acquaint students and guests with professional and published writers. The program is in Rodgers Chapel at 7 pm.

1996 Mount Olive College Sports Schedule

Baseball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Sat.	Feb. 10	Wingate Coll (DH)	H	12:30 pm
Wed.	Feb. 14	Elon College	A	2:00 pm
Sat.	Feb. 17	Virginia Wesleyan Coll	H	1:00 pm
Sun.	Feb. 18	Virginia Wesleyan Coll	H	1:00 pm
Sat.	Feb. 24	St. Andrews Coll (DH)	A	1:00 pm
Sun.	Feb. 25	St. Andrews Coll	A	2:00 pm
Tues.	Feb. 27	Pembroke State Univ	A	2:30 pm
Wed.	Feb. 28	Elon College	H	2:00 pm
Thurs.	Feb. 29	NC Wesleyan College	A	2:30 pm
Sat.	Mar. 2	Coker College (DH)	H	1:00 pm
Sun.	Mar. 3	Coker College	H	2:00 pm
Tues.	Mar. 5	Francis Marion Univ	A	3:00 pm
Wed.	Mar. 6	Francis Marion Univ	A	3:00 pm
Sat.	Mar. 9	Belmont Abbey Coll (DH)	H	1:00 pm
Sun.	Mar. 10	Belmont Abbey Coll	H	2:00 pm
Tues.	Mar. 12	Colby Sawyer College	H	3:00 pm
Wed.	Mar. 13	Colby Sawyer College	H	3:00 pm
Fri.	Mar. 15	U of WI-River Falls	H	1:00 pm
Sat.	Mar. 16	Chowan College	Kinston	7:00 pm
Tues.	Mar. 19	NC Wesleyan College	H	3:00 pm
Wed.	Mar. 20	Louisburg (Exhibition)	H	3:00 pm
Thurs.	Mar. 21	Francis Marion Univ	H	3:00 pm
Sat.	Mar. 23	Longwood College (DH)	A	1:00 pm
Sun.	Mar. 24	Longwood College	A	2:00 pm
Tues.	Mar. 26	North Adams State Univ	H	2:30 pm
Wed.	Mar. 27	Methodist College	H	3:00 pm
Fri.	Mar. 29	Erskine College	A	3:00 pm
Sat.	Mar. 30	Erskine College (DH)	A	1:00 pm
Mon.	Apr. 1	UNY at Stoney Brooke	H	3:00 pm
Wed.	Apr. 3	Kinston Indians (Exhib.)	Kinston	7:00 pm
Fri.	Apr. 5	High Point University	H	3:00 pm
Sat.	Apr. 6	High Point Univ (DH)	H	1:00 pm
Tues.	Apr. 9	Barton College (DH)	H	1:00 pm
Wed.	Apr. 10	Barton College	H	3:00 pm
Fri.	Apr. 12	Wilmington, DE	H	3:00 pm
Sat.	Apr. 13	Pfeiffer College (DH)	A	1:00 pm
Sun.	Apr. 14	Pheiffer College	A	2:00 pm
Tues.	Apr. 16	Methodist College	A	3:00 pm
Wed.	Apr. 17	Pembroke State Univ.	H	3:00 pm
Thur. - Sun.	Apr. 18-21	CVAC Tournament	TBA	TBA

Head Coach: Carl Lancaster
 Assistant Coach: Richard MaHocks
 Athletic Director: Dr. Mac Cassell

Softball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Sat.	Feb. 24	Pembroke State U (DH)	A	1:00 pm
Sun.	Feb. 25	Methodist College	A	2:00 pm
Tues.	Feb. 27	Pembroke State U (DH)	H	2:00 pm
Sat.	Mar. 2	Eckerd College	St. Pete's, FL	1:00 pm
Mon-Sat.	Mar. 4-9	Rebel Games Spring Break	A	TBA
Tues.	Mar. 12	St. Andrews Coll (DH)	A	2:00 pm
Thur.	Mar. 14	Shaw Univ. (DH)	H	2:00 pm
Sat.-Sun.	Mar. 16,17	UNC-Wilmington Tourney	A	TBA
Wed.	Mar. 20	Coker College (DH)	A	2:00 pm
Thur.	Mar. 21	Erskine College (DH)	A	2:00 pm
Sat.	Mar. 23	Pfeiffer College (DH)	A	TBA
Sun.	Mar. 24	Wingate College (DH)	H	1:30 pm
Tues.	Mar. 26	Longwood College (DH)	H	2:30 pm
Thurs.	Mar. 28	Queens College (DH)	A	2:30 pm
Wed.	Apr. 3	Louisburg College	H	3:00 pm
Thurs.	Apr. 4	St. Andrews Coll (DH)	H	2:00 pm
Tues.	Apr. 9	NC Wesleyan Coll (DH)	A	3:00 pm
Wed.	Apr. 10	Barton College (DH)	A	2:30 pm
Sat.-Sun.	Apr. 13,14	Francis Marion Univ. Tourney	A	TBA
Mon.	Apr. 15	Belmont Abbey Coll (DH)	H	2:30 pm
Fri.-Sun.	Apr. 19,20,21	Conference Tournament (Monday Rain Date)	A	TBA

Head Coach: Kathy Riley
 Athletic Director: Dr. Mac Cassell

Golf Schedule – Spring 1996

Day	Date	Tournament	Host
Sun/Mon/Tues	Mar. 3,4,5	Barton College Tourney	Barton College
Sun/Mon/Tues	Mar. 10,11,12	Max Ward Tourney	Elon College
Thur	Mar. 21	Porter's Neck Planation Exhibition	Cape Fear Comm. Coll
Thur/Fri/ Sat/Sun	Mar. 28,29, 30,31	Camp LeJeune Invitational	Camp LeJeune
Tues	Apr. 4	St. Andrews Coll. Tourney	St. Andrews College
Fri/Sat/Sun	Apr. 5,6,7	Pine Needles Tournament	Pfeifer College
Tues	Apr. 9	NC Wesleyan Tourney	NC Wesleyan College
Sun/Mon	Apr. 14,15	CVAC Tournament	Regency Park Charlotte

Head Coach: Dr. Mac Cassell
 Athletic Director: Dr. Mac Cassell

Sports Schedule Cont.

Men's Tennis Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Fri.	March 15	High Point Univ.	A	2:30 pm
Wed.	March 20	Belmont Abbey College	H	2:30 pm
Sat.	March 23	Longwood College	H	1:00 pm
Mon.	March 25	Pfeiffer College	H	2:30 pm
Wed.	March 27	Coker College	H	2:30 pm
Thurs.	March 28	St. Andrew's College	A	2:00 pm
Tues.	April 9	Barton College	A	2:30 pm
Fri.	April 12	Erskine College	A	2:30 pm
Sat.	April 13	Queens College	A	10:00 am
Sun.	April 14	Lees McRae College	A	1:30 pm
Thur.	April 18-21	Conference Tournament		

Head Coach: Fran Hooks

Athletic Director: Dr. Allen "Mac" Cassell

Women's Tennis Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Wed.	March 13	Longwood College	H	2:00 pm
Fri.	March 15	High Point Univ.	A	2:30 pm
Tues.	March 19	St. Mary's College	H	3:00 pm
Wed.	March 20	Belmont Abbey College	H	2:30 pm
Mon.	March 25	Pfeiffer College	H	2:30 pm
Wed.	March 27	Coker College	H	2:30 pm
Thurs.	March 28	St. Andrew's College	A	2:00 pm
Wed.	April 3	St. Mary's College	A	3:30 pm
Tues.	April 9	Barton College	A	2:30 pm
Fri.	April 12	Erskine College	A	2:30 pm
Sat.	April 13	Queens College	A	10:00 am
Sun.	April 14	Lees McRae College	A	1:30 pm
Thur.	April 18-21	Conference Tournament		

Head Coach: Fran Hooks

Athletic Director: Dr. Allen "Mac" Cassell

Sports Roundup

Mount Olive College is a member of the NCAA Division II's Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference.

Winter sports — men's and women's basketball — is winding down, and Spring sports are beginning.

As of press time, the men's basketball team had a very respectable 14-6 overall record and were 7-5 in conference play. The women's record was 11-9 overall, and 9-3 in conference play. Both teams were in 4th place with six games to go heading into their conference tournaments.

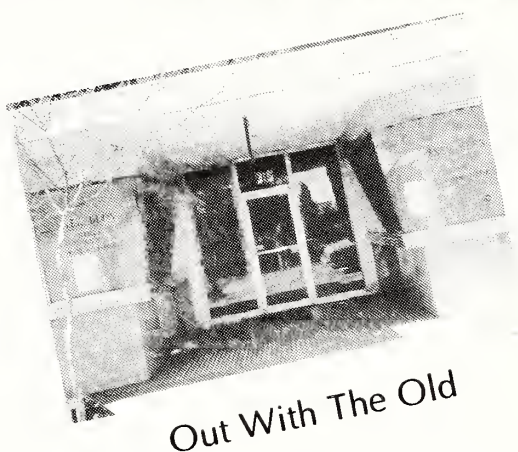
Mount Olive College fields a men's baseball team, a women's softball team, a men's golf team, and men's and women's tennis teams. Schedules are provided here, or you can contact the Athletic Department for information about the teams or their schedules. Call 919-658-5056.

Mount Olive College in Winter

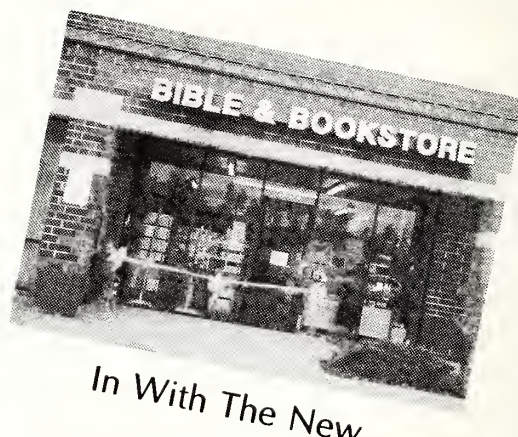


Each season has its own unique beauty — winter included. For one thing, architecture is more easily appreciated because views are not obstructed by foliage. These two photos show the heart and soul of Mount Olive College — Moyer Library and Rodgers Chapel — unfettered by leaves and flowers.

New Bern Bible And Bookstore



Out With The Old



In With The New

ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE New Bern Bookstore

213 Middle Street
New Bern, North Carolina

**Grand Opening
April 14-17, 1970**

Opening Specials Include 10% Discount On All Items

This bookstore is a branch of the
Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.
Ayden, North Carolina



New Bern Bible and Bookstore

is
NOW OPEN
at their new location

1232 S. Glenburnie Road
Glenburnie Plaza

Come see our new look
and as always
we are there to
serve you!



The New Bern Bible and Bookstore located on Middle street closed its doors on December 23, 1995. We have now reopened the New Bern Bible and Bookstore at its New Location on Glenburnie Road in the Glenburnie Plaza.

PACKING UP TO MOVE



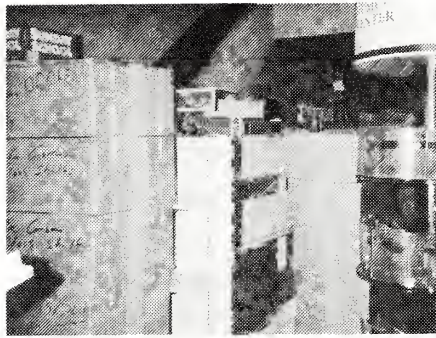
"What?!!" No heat and we have to move this?
(Pictured here Executive Director Cliff Gray)



Last look at the old store before we really
started packing.



Pam and Nell packing in the cold.



Boxes, Boxes, and More Boxes

GETTING THE NEW STORE READY



We even offered wallpaper classes (Pic-
tured Julie Dawson, Press employee,
hanging wallpaper)



Tracy McCoy, Editor, helping hang the
wallpaper



Shelves are full in the storage room.



It's almost open!

Grand Opening

January 22, 1996 • 10:00 am



New Bern Bible and Bookstore celebrated its Grand Opening January 22, 1996 at their new location; 1232 South Glenburie Road, Glenburnie Plaza.

L to R: Rev. Scott Sowers – Executive Adminstrator of Original Free Will Baptists, Carroll Hawkins – Chairman of Free Will Baptist Board of Directors, Nell Jernigan – Book Store Employee, Pam Sasser – Book Store Employee, Lexine Davis – Book Stores Coordinator, Clifford Gray Jr – Executive Director of Free Will Baptist Press. Back row, L to R: Larry Stembridge, Rev. Craig Simmons – Pastor of St. Mary FWB Church, New Bern, NC, Debbie Stembridge – Book Store Employee, Rev. Bryant Hines – Pastor of Core Creek FWB Church, Cove City, NC, Margaret Langley, Rev. Buddy Sasser – Pastor New Bethlehem FWB Church, Grantsboro, NC, Ruth Taylor – Member of Board of Directors, Ermon Godwin – Member of Board of Directors. (Picture taken by Tracy McCoy – Editor of Free Will Baptist Press)



Outside store, L to R: Debbie Stembridge,
Pam Sasser, Nell Jernigan, and Lexine Davis.



Lexine Davis, Debbie Stembridge, Cliff
Gray, Pam Sasser, and Nell Jernigan



Cliff Gray, Executive Director of FWB Press
Foundation, welcomes everyone.



Rev. Scott Sowers, gives brief devotion.
Also pictured Mr. Carroll Hawkins.

The Ribbon is Cut!!



Guests are greeted by Mr. Gray.



All Of The Hard Work Has Paid Off!



Nell invites everyone to come and see the New Store

We have a new location and a new look but we still have the same good service we've had over the last 26 years. Please come by to see us and let us help you with all your religious needs in books, Bibles, robes, materials in V.B.S. , Sunday school and church supplies. We carry all types of Christian music. We also offer special orders.

The New Bern Bible and Bookstore is a branch of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc. in Ayden, NC.

Cragmont...

A New Retreat!

Spring and Easter serve as reminders to us that God wants us to renew our faith each day. In this retreat, to be held May 3-5, 1996, we will study ways to have revival in our lives everyday...being faithful in season and out of season. We hope to invite meaningful dialogue on the theme of our denomination for this year. This retreat is open to all, so be sure to reserve your space by March 31, 1996. The cost of the retreat is \$45 per person which includes room, meals, and retreat materials. Cragmont Club members are welcome to use their benefits for this retreat! To register fill out the registration form below and send it and a \$10 per person deposit* to: Genesis Retreat, c/o Cragmont Assembly, 1233 N. Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

For more information contact the staff at Cragmont.

* Club members please write "club" in for your deposit.

**YES! SIGN ME (US)
UP!**

Name

Address

Church

Phone

of Participants:

Total Deposit: \$.00

THE GENESIS RETREAT

Renovation Update!

The renovation plans are moving forward as demolition on the North End of the Main Building is slated to begin toward the end of the month! Keep us in your prayers as we begin a new era for Cragmont!



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 1996

Morning Star

April 12-14

Teresa Ball
Route 1, Box 96-B
Grifton, NC 28530
919-524-4677

June Woman's Aux. Conference

June 3-8

Teresa Ball
Route 1, Box 96-B
Grifton, NC 28530
919-524-4677

Minister's Conference

June 10-13

Philip Boykin
55 Lee's Chapel Church Road
Dunn, NC 28334
919-892-8360

Christian Cadet Conference

June 17-22

Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530
919-735-3916

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 24-29

Scott and Janie Sowers
P.O. Box 639
Bell Arthur, NC 27811
919-321-7542

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 1-6

Frankie Baggett
Route 2, Box 214
Nashville, NC 27856
919-459-3818

General Youth II Conference

July 8-13

Chris Singleton
P.O. Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518
910-2983520

General Youth I Conference

July 15-20

Bryant Hines
P.O. Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
919-633-2683

Young People's Bible

July 22-27

James Gurganus
1317 Nine Foot Road
Newport, NC 28570
919-223-5251

August Woman's Aux. Conference

July 29-August 3

Teresa Ball
Route 1, Box 96-B
Grifton, NC 28530
919-524-4677



MARCH IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	
25	26	27	28
3	4 ■ Camp Vandemere Saint's Delight 7:30 pm	5	6
10	11 * Aurora Musicalis Rodger's Chapel 7:30 pm + Press Material Deadline	12	13
17 <i>Saint Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 * Student Recital Rodgers Chapel 7:30 pm	26	27
31			

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

G E N D

us/following month
nt month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Children's Home
- ◆ Layman's League
- * Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- * Woman's Auxiliary

THU		FRI		SAT	
	29	1		2	○ Sunday School Institute, Everett Chapel
	7	8		9	▼ Children's Home Alumni Meeting
	14	15		16	
	21	22		23	
	✿ Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Juniper Chapel 9:30 am				
	28	29		30	
April is Home Missions & Evangelism Month					

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

FEATURES

Camp Vandemere

We have had a great summer, the attendance was encouraging. We had a good staff, as well as good directors. We are thankful for the many prayers, the financial support, as well as other means of support. The board has worked very hard to do all they could to help the Camp and promote the work of our Lord.

NEW MANAGER

As many of you know, the camp is in need of a new manager. At the Eastern Conference in October, the Rev. Ralph Sumner, our current manager, gave his resignation. Ralph says it's time for him to slow down and turn over his duties to a younger person. Ralph will still be working with the Camp in the capacity of General Manager. In this position he will be available to assist our new manager with learning his duties. We are going to miss seeing Ralph at the Camp, and we certainly appreciate all he has done, and will be doing for the Camp. He is still very active on the board and gives us valuable help. If you are interested in applying for this position, please send a resume to the Chairman of our Board, the Rev. Owen Arthur, Route 2 Box 482A, Richlands, NC 28574.

NEW DIETITIAN

Not only do we need a manager, but we also need a new dietitian. Mrs. Janie Sumner, Brother Ralph's wife, has been our dietitian for several years, but now wants to spend more time at home and with Ralph in their church work. This job could be ideal for someone who loves to cook and would like summer employment. If you are interested, please send a resume to our board chairman whose name is listed above.

NEW PROJECT

There are many projects that need our attention, but we feel the most urgent one is our pier. Our present pier is getting old; time, storms, and such have taken their toll on it. At present it is unsafe to use. The board has decided it's time to start repairing it so all those who come to the camp can use it without any worry. This project is going to be rather expensive. We thought at first all we would need to do is replace the decking, but when we took a closer look we found that the piling also need replacing. The major expense will go, towards the hiring of someone to put the pilings down. The piling must be salt-treated and must be a certain depth to meet state requirements. The rest of the pier can be replaced with just regular salt-treated lumber. The good news is that we have a group of men who are willing to give their time to repair the pier once we get the piling down. We ask that you be much in prayer as we work on this much-needed project.

A THOUGHT TO CONSIDER

We mentioned earlier in this newsletter the Rev. Ralph Sumner and his wife were retiring from most of their duties at the camp. Allow me to take you back to the very idea of Camp Vandemere. This all started in the heart of Brother Ralph. I remember when the Fifth Eastern Union Youth For Christ Rally was having a week-end retreat at the camp they rented from another denomination on Bogue Sound. It was here that Brother Ralph first mentioned the idea for a camp in the Eastern part of the state, and it was here that the first offering was taken. Since then much has happened, men have worked hard, given their time, talents, as well as their financial donations to help build Camp Vandemere. Brother Ralph was the director, for the very first camp that took place at Camp Vandemere, and has been involved with the camp ever since. Many of you have been to camp, you have had some wonderful times there with Ralph and Janie. Some of you found Christ as your Saviour at camp and in honor and appreciation for the Sumner's dedication and time, we would like to give you the opportunity to participate in an endowment that has been established for them. This endowment was set up several years ago, but not much has been published about it. Now that you know about it I would like for you to pray about it, and when you sent your gifts we ask you to ear-mark it for the Ralph and Janie Sumners endowment fund.

CLEAN UP DAY

Another important event is our Clean-Up Day. It is scheduled for April 13 beginning at 9:00 am. We need your help, we would like to have the camp look nice for the coming season. We invite you to come, bring your rakes, shovels, wheel barrows, weed eaters, lawn mowers and anything else you feel you can use to help clean up.

Ladies, don't forget we need your help. The kitchen, dining hall, and dormitory needs your special touch. You will need to bring cleaning supplies such as 409, scrub rags, and other items to help with this type of cleaning. Last year we had a very good response to our clean-up day and we hope to have even more to join us this year. A cookout is planned for those who come and help us. This will be the Camp's treat and our way of saying Thank you!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Camp Vandemere, NC — June 1, 1996
Hebrews 10:23 "...for he is faithful that promised."
Theme: "The Lord of Promises"

Friday: May 31

6:00 pm

Fellowship and Sharing Time

Saturday: June 1

9:00 – 9:30 am

Fellowship Time

9:30 – 10:15 am

"The Promise of Forgiveness and Everlasting Life"

Mr. Elmer Harrell

10:15 – 10:45 am

Recreation and Fellowship

10:45 – 11:30 am

"The Promise of Freedom and the Joy of Abiding Love"

The Rev. Jack Weathersby

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Lunch and Recreation

1:00 – 1:45 pm

"The Promise of Prayer and a Spirit-Filled Life"

The Rev. Mike Scott

1:45 – 2:15 pm

Recreation

2:15 – 2:45 pm

Prayer and Meditation

2:45 – 3:30 pm

Sharing Time

3:30 pm

Benediction

Recommended Reading: (Paper back)

The Release of the Spirit by Watchman Nee

(This book may be ordered through the Free Will Baptist Press)

Mr. Elmer Harrell is a member of Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and a leader in the Layman's League.

The Reverend Jack Weathersby is pastor of Saint's Delight Free Will Baptist Church, Grifton, NC.

The Reverend Mike Scott is pastor of Wintergreen Free Will Baptist Church, Cove City, NC.

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All sessions on Saturday will be at Camp Vandemere.

If you plan to stay overnight at Camp Vandemere, bring your sleeping bag and whatever else you will need to stay overnight.

Bring your Bible with you. You will need it on Saturday.

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For additional information, please contact:

Mr. John Newton
500 West Walnut St. • Tarboro, NC 27886
Office: 823-7776 • Home: 823-3049

Mr. Elmer E. Harrell
502 S.E. 3rd St. • Snow Hill, NC 28580
747-2894

Registration for Layman's League SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

June 1, 1996

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1996.

Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League. (\$5.00)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Church: _____

Conference: _____

Home Telephone: _____

(Check appropriate blanks)

_____ I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 1, 1996.

_____ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, May 31, 1996.

Please return this form to:

Mr. John Newton or Mr. Elmer E. Harrell
500 West Walnut St. 502 S.E. 3rd St.

Tarboro, NC 27886 Snow Hill, NC 28580

Sample Layman's League Nomination for Layman of the Year

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Nominated by (Name of Church): _____
 President: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Pastor Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____

2. Nominee Requirements:

- a. Must be member of local Layman's League.
- b. Attend regular local Layman's League meetings.
- c. Attend local worship services.
- d. Attend Conference Layman's League meetings.
- e. Attend State Layman's League meeting.
- f. Participate in projects with local Layman's League.

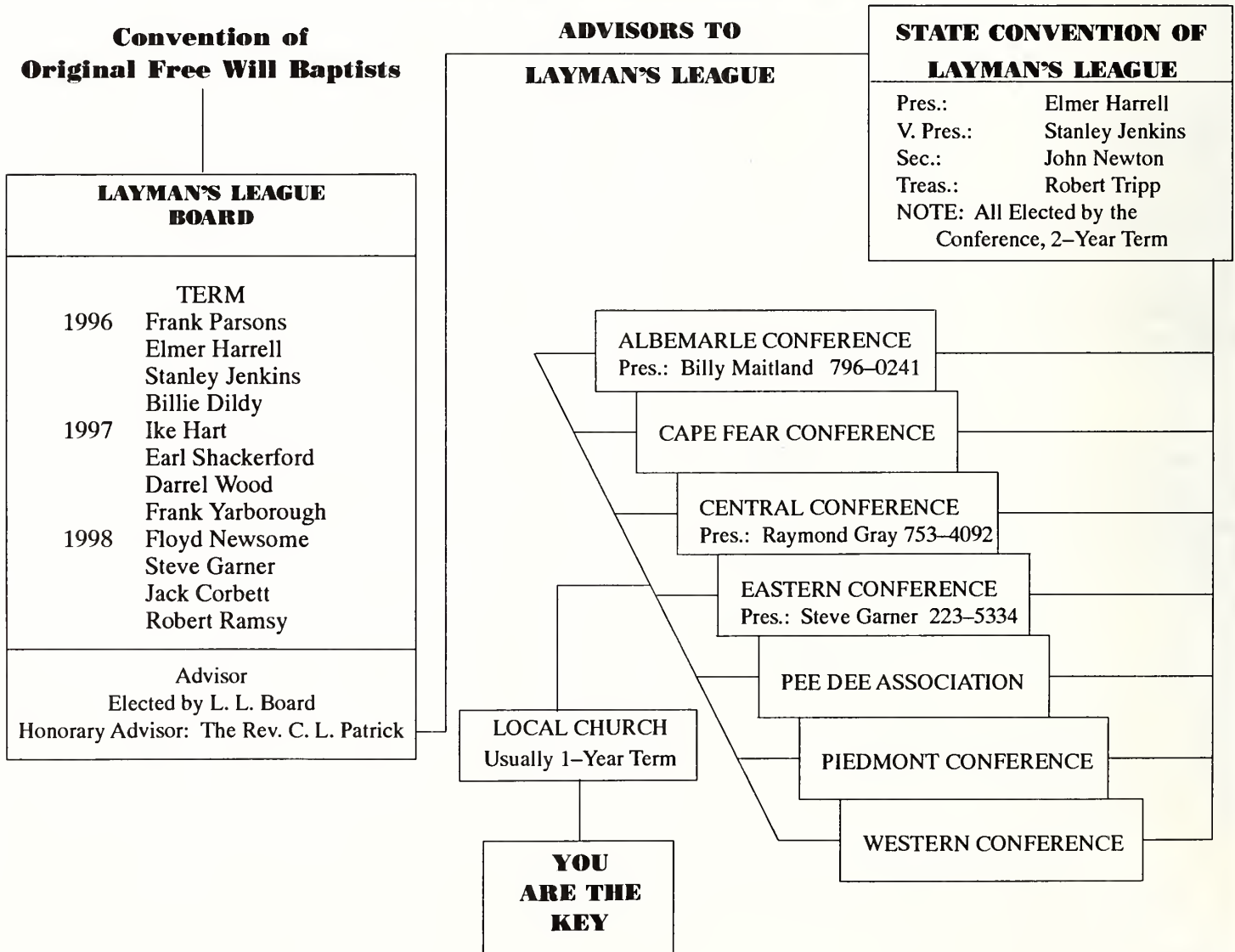
3. This form should be completed and mailed in with the following NLT 31 December of the year being nominated.

- a. Letter of recommendation from local Conference Layman's League president.
- b. \$25.00 nomination fee. Make check payable to State Layman's League.
- c. Mail all of the above to the President of State Layman's League.

1. List all accomplishments (Church and Work)

Who's Who?

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Covenant's

4th Anniversary Celebration

with Special Guests



Covenant



The Greenes



The Bishops

The Greenes and The Bishops

Saturday, March 16, 1996 • 7:00 pm

Grover C. Fields Middle School • New Bern, NC

Tickets: \$8.00 advance • \$10.00 at the Door • Under 12 Free

**Tickets available in area Christian Bookstores
For information call Bryant Hines at 919-633-2683**

FREE WILL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

ROMANS 6-8

For several centuries there has been an ongoing debate over free will versus determinism, and for a long time the debate was carried on primarily by theologians. Writing in the fifth century, A.D., Pelagius and Augustine took polar positions in the debate. In opposition to those who pleaded human frailty as an excuse for their moral failings, Pelagius argued that God made every individual free to choose and perform the good. Believing that Pelagius did not give due consideration to the consequences of Adam's sin and the necessity of God's grace, Augustine argued that Man had fallen by an act of free will but could not reverse the consequences of the fall by an exercise of will. Since the will itself was perverted by the fall, salvation could be accomplished only by God's initiative. Augustine believed that men will not do what is right, either because they don't know what is right or because they don't enjoy doing it. He went on to formulate a doctrine of predestination that gave no place to freedom of the human will. This doctrine was expounded further in the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas and of John Calvin, and the teachings of Pelagius came to be regarded as heretical. It remained for Jacobus Arminius, a seventeenth century Dutch theologian, to formulate a reasonable middle ground in the debate. Rejecting the harsh Calvinistic doctrine of unconditional predestination, Arminius argued that God's grace, without forcing individuals in one direction or the other, enabled them to choose the right and reject the wrong. He believed that Christ died for all people, and that God offers the plan of salvation to all. Salvation or damnation depends on the free choice the individual makes. Final responsibility therefore rests on the individual.

Like Pelagius, we live in a time when people don't like to take personal responsibility for their actions. There have always been people who, when caught in a fault either blame someone else or claim they couldn't help it. In the Genesis account of the first sin, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. In our time, the tendency is to blame the environment in which the individual grew up. Often if an individual gets in serious trouble, questions are raised about how his parents treated him when he was a child. If any evidence of abuse in his childhood years can be found, that apparently is supposed to absolve the criminal of any guilt or any responsibility for his actions. The debate about free will versus determinism still goes on, but in our time it is not just a theological debate. Some scientists, philosophers, and psychologists think they can explain human behavior as the result of what they call "scientific determinism." According to this theory of determinism, biological forces within us and cultural and environmental forces around us combine with such power that individuals can only react; we do not control these forces nor our reactions to them. So the struggle to do the right thing, unless the right things happens to be part of the natural flow of events, is a futile struggle. Many people apparently take a similar position regardless of any scientific basis, and some of them can cite Scripture which they think supports their position.

The seventh Chapter of Romans, in which Paul writes about the struggle between the forces of good and evil in the individual, is sometimes cited as proof of the futility of trying to do right, especially by people who want to find an excuse for their failures. They find comfort especially in Verses 19 and 20 (Scripture quotations are from *The New*

English Bible): "The good which I want to do, I fail to do; but what I do is the wrong which is against my will; and if what I do is against my will, clearly it is no longer I am the agent, but sin that has its lodging in me." This Scripture, without regard to its context, is taken to mean essentially the same thing as the line made famous by the Black comedian Flip Wilson a few years ago — "The Devil made me do it."

Taken out of context these verses from Romans 7 do sound as if we are the helpless victims of our evil tendencies, but it is a mistake to interpret any passage of Scripture apart from its context. Someone has said, "A text without its context is a pretext," and that is true in the present instance. The immediate context of Verses 19 and 20 begins in Chapter 6 and runs through Chapter 8. In Chapter 6, Paul writes about our union with Christ in His death and Resurrection. In Verse 11, he writes, "you must regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus." Paul continues in Verses 12 through 14: "So sin must no longer reign in your mortal body, exacting obedience to the body's desires. You must no longer put its several parts at sin's disposal, as implements for doing wrong. No: put yourselves at the disposal of God, as dead men raised to life; yield your bodies to him as implements for doing right; for sin shall no longer be your master, because you are no longer under law, but under the grace of God."

The phrases "no longer under law, but under the grace of God" are crucial to understanding what Paul writes in Chapter 7, for in this section of his letter to the Romans he is contrasting his experience under the Law and his experience under grace. He makes it clear in the opening verse of the chapter that he is speaking to people who have some

knowledge of Mosaic Law, and he points out the fact that sin is defined in relation to the Law. It is self-evident that where no law exist, there can be no violation of the law. To put it in terms clear to people of our time, if we were to abolish our speed laws, we could drive 100 miles per hour without violating the law. That would of course be very unsafe but it would not be illegal! One might reasonably argue that apart from any written laws, Mosaic or modern, there is a transcendent moral law which cannot be violated with impunity. Even so, one must recognize the fact that the Judeo-Christian concept of sin is for the most part based on the Laws given to Moses at Sinai. The Hebrews certainly regarded keeping the Mosaic Law as the way to salvation. Jesus showed His respect for the Law when the young rich man came to ask Him the way to obtain eternal life. Jesus said, "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." The young man asked, "Which commandments?" and Jesus answered, "Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not give false evidence; honor your father and mother; and love your neighbor as yourself." The episode illustrates both the importance of the Law and its inadequacy as a means of salvation. The young man though he had kept the Law, and he said so; but he showed that he did not really love his neighbor as himself when Jesus said, "If you wish to go the whole way, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and then you will have riches in heaven; and come, follow me." This was a higher standard than the young man was able to meet, and we are told that he went away with a heavy heart, "for he was a man of great wealth."

The great difficulty many Jews had in accepting the teachings of Jesus was rooted in their faith in the Law, and the greatest challenges Paul faced in preaching the Christian gospel came from those who were unwilling to move from the age of Law to the age of grace. Their attitude was unfortunate but un-

derstandable. All their lives they had been taught that their only hope was in the Law, and they found it hard to understand that Jesus provided a new basis for hope of eternal life. In this part of Romans, Paul offers an explanation of the real function of the Law: instead of bringing life it really brings death. He says, "Except through Law I should never have become acquainted with sin. For example, I should never have known what it was to covet, if the Law had not said, 'Thou shalt not covet.'" He goes on to say, "Through that commandment sin found its opportunity, and produced in me all kinds of wrong desires." Furthermore, he says, "The commandments which should have led to life proved in my experience to lead to death, because sin found its opportunity in the commandment, seduced me, and through the commandment killed me."

Paul elaborates this point in his letter to the Galatians. In Chapter 3, Verse 10, he says those who rely on obedience to the Law are under a curse, because they do not "preserve in doing everything that is written in the Book of the Law." In Verse 19 he says the Law "was added to make wrongdoing a legal offence. It was a temporary measure pending the arrival of the (Christ)." In Verse 21 he says, "If a law had been given which had the power to bestow life, then indeed righteousness would have come from keeping the law. But Scripture has declared the whole world to be prisoners in subjection to sin, so that faith in Jesus Christ may be the ground on which the promised blessing is given, and given to those who have such faith." In the following two verses Paul talks about his status under the Law. He says, "Before this faith came, we were close prisoners in the custody of law, pending the revelation of faith. Thus the Law was a kind of tutor in charge of us until Christ should come, when we should be justified through faith; and now that faith has come, the tutor's charge is at an end."

William Neil, in *Harper's Bible Commentary* (Harper & Row, 1962), paraphrases Paul's explanation of the function of the Law: "It shows up sin for what it is, and without it we should not recognize that we are in fact sinners. But it also stimulates our desire to sin, in that all forbidden things become doubly attractive." In Romans 7:9 Paul says, "There was a time when in the absence of law, I was fully alive; but when the commandment come, sin sprang to life and I died." Neil comments on this passage as follows: "As a youth he (Paul) was carefree, because he did not see his behavior against the background of the Law. When he accepted the Law as his standard, at once he became conscious of sin and moral failure. This was, however, clearly not the fault of the Law, which is good in itself, but of the tendency to sin which is in every man from Adam onwards."

The struggle Paul describes in Verses 19 and 20 then is the struggle he had *before* his encounter with Christ! As an adult living under the Mosaic Law, he accepted the rightness of moral law with his mind, but he recognized his inability to live up to it: "The good which I want to do, I fail to do; but what I do is the wrong which is against my will." In Verse 21 and 22 he further describes his inner struggles. He says, "When I want to do the right, only the wrong is within my reach." And in Verse 24 he cries out, "Miserable creature that I am, who is there to rescue me out of this body doomed to death?" In the next verse he answers his own question: "*God alone, through Jesus Christ our Lord!*"

Instead of a biblical basis for evasion of personal responsibility for our actions then, Romans 7 is an account of the struggle Paul experienced, and the struggle anyone experiences, in trying to meet God's standard through human strength alone. In his *Autobiography*, Benjamin Franklin tells of how he undertook on his own initiative to improve himself in respect to certain moral virtues. He no doubt made some

worthwhile improvements; and he became one of the great men in the history of our country, but the moral standards he lived by in his later life are certainly not worthy of our admiration. There is no way standards of conduct pleasing to God can be reached by our efforts alone. Paul says the goal can be achieved by God's help, through Jesus Christ. William Neil says, "Thus it is on a note of triumph that Paul ends this main part of his letter. Christ liberates us from the power of sin, which leads inevitably to our spiritual death. The moral demands of the Old Testament Law are not strong enough to straighten our twisted natures, but God has made this possible through Christ." In the verses immediately preceding Chapter 7, Paul says "...sin must no longer reign in your mortal body.... You must no longer put its several parts at sin's disposal, as implements for doing wrong. No: put yourselves at the disposal of God...; yield your bodies to him as implements for doing right...." And in the opening verses of Chapter 8: "The conclusion of the matter is this: there is no condemnation for those who are united with Christ Jesus, because in Christ Jesus the life-giving Law of the Spirit has set you free from the law of sin and death. What the Law could never do, because our lower nature robbed it of all potency, God has done: by sending his own Son in a form like that of our own sinful nature, and as a sacrifice for sin, he has passed judgement against sin within that very nature, so that the commandment of the Law may find fulfillment in us, whose conduct, no longer under the control of our lower nature, is directed by the Spirit."

In the remaining verses of Romans 8, Paul gives the strongest possible assurance of ultimate victory for those who give themselves over to the power of God's Spirit. Although parts of this chapter may have provided a basis for the Augustinian/Calvinistic doctrine of predestination, they do not preclude the role of free choice in the life of the in-

dividual. Verse 29 in the King James Version reads as follows: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..." And Verse 30 continues, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." The critical phrase here is "whom he did foreknow." As Arminian theologians point out, God's foreknowledge comes first, and he knows who will respond to his offer of salvation. These are the ones who are predestined to salvation. The *New English Bible* says it this way: "For God knew his own before ever they were, and also ordained that they should be shaped to the likeness of his Son."

In Paul's various letters, he makes it clear that individuals are responsible for their actions, and consequently their destiny. In I Corinthians 6, he reproves his readers for their behavior. Anticipating their answer, he writes in Verse 12: "'I am free to do anything,' you say. Yes, but not everything is for my good. No doubt I am free to do anything, but I for one will not let anything make free with me." In Chapter 10, Verse 12, he says: "If you feel that you are standing firm, beware! You may fall." He goes on in Verse 13 to say: "God keeps faith, and he will not allow you to be tested above your powers, but when the test comes he will at the same time provide an way out, by enabling you to sustain it." These words present a picture far different from that of the individual in Romans 7 struggling helplessly to meet the demands of righteousness under the Law. Clearly, Paul the Christian believes that God is able to keep him from the enslaving power of evil; but he also allows for the possibility of falling. As redeemed persons we are free to submit ourselves to the power of God and enjoy his supporting strength. We are also free to choose our own way and suffer the consequences.

Taking parts of Romans 7 as units standing alone in the Bible, one might

conclude that there is nothing to be accomplished by struggling to do right: the power of our lower nature is too strong; knowledge of God's Law only makes the struggle more frustrating, and we are doomed to failure. If this is what Paul meant, then surely we cannot help doing the bad things we are inclined to do, and we cannot accomplish the good we would like to do. But taken in the context of what precedes and what follows Chapter 7, it is clear that Paul meant something diametrically different from that interpretation. Indeed we cannot accomplish the desired goal of doing right by just trying in our own strength to do right. But by accepting what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, and by yielding our lives to the Holy Spirit, we can live our lives on a higher spiritual plane. *The goal is achieved not by struggling but by yielding!* It is not that we should expect to achieve perfection in this mortal life. Living in complete harmony with the will of God is an ideal to be sought whether it is ever achieved or not. It may not be impossible to live in complete harmony with the will of God, but the record of people who have succeeded in doing so is hard to find. God's provision for continuing forgiveness is based on His recognition that we will continue to need His forgiveness. "Forgive us our trespassers, as we forgive those who trespass against us" was not included in the Lord's Prayer just for rhetorical reasons. Nor was it intended to give us an excuse for irresponsible conduct. The fact that we do in fact fall short of the Divine standard is no reason to resign ourselves to the power of evil and blame someone or something else for our own shortcomings. If we follow Paul's admonition to regard ourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, we can trust his assurance that "the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness," (Verse 26) and there is "nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Verse 39).

Article submitted by Roy C. O'Donnell, PhD

Right from ~~Wrong~~

1996 Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists May 17-19, 1996 Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 17

- 5:00 pm • Registration, College Hall
- 7:15 pm • Welcome — Lee Buck, Youth Convention President
- Words with Wes
- 7:30 pm • Talent Explosion, College Hall
- 9:30 pm • **Right from Wrong**
YFA — Fine Arts Center, AFC — Murphy Center, Cherubs
— Hart Lounge
- 11:30 pm • Good Night! All in their rooms.

Saturday, May 18

- 7:30 — 8:30 • Breakfast, Murphy Regional Center
- 8:00 am • Registration for new arrivals, College Hall
- 8:30 am • General Assembly, College Hall (everyone)
 - Bible Bowl Exhibit, College Hall
 - Introduction and Campaigning
 - Voting (polls open until 12:00)
- 10:00 am • **Right from Wrong**
 - Lesson Presentation, Herderson Building Room 209
 - Public Speaking, Rodgers Chapel
- 11:00 am • League Covention meeting, Rodgers Chapel
- 11:00 — 1:00 • Exploring Christian ministries
- 11:30 — 1:00 • Lunch, Murphy Regional Center
- 1:15 pm • Business Session
 - Old & New Business • Installation of Officers
- 2:00 pm • **Right from Wrong**
 - League meeting, Chapel
- 3:30 — 5:30 • Recreation/Free Time
 - Exploring Christian ministries (continued)
- 6:00 pm • Banquet and Awards Program (no shorts)
- 8:00 pm • Celebration!
- 11:00 pm • Good Night! All in their rooms.

Sunday, May 19

- 8:00 — 9:00 • Breakfast, Murphy Center
- 9:15 am • **Right from Wrong**
- 10:30 am • Morning Worship, Rodgers Chapel
- 12:00 pm • Cleaning and check-out

- The State Project is new mattresses for the residence halls of Mount Olive College. Please give as much as you can, however, \$150 per church will help in meeting our goal. Money should be sent to : Martha Parsons 2317 Bayside Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306-8803, 910-486-4636.
- Complete the registration form to the right no later than May 1st.
- Rooms will be assigned in the order that registration forms are received.
- Guests will need to bring their own pillows, blankets, linens, bath cloths, towels, soap, casual and dress clothes, beach towel, athletic equipment, money for meals and snacks, Bible, notebook, and pen or pencil.

Please Return This Portion
By May 1, 1996

Church _____

District _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Registration Fee is \$25 per church
(after May 1st, \$35) *

Total number of youth/adults lodging overnight:

Friday	No.	Subtotal
Male Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Female Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Saturday		
Male Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Female Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____

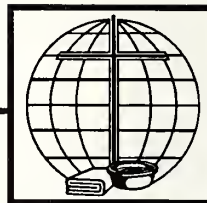
Total Lodging _____

* Registration Fee (per church) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

* All Registration Forms and Fees should be
sent by May 1st to:

Judy Jones
Route 3, Box 650-B
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-6293



★★★ ATTENTION ★★★ NORTH CAROLINA WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES

The 1996 session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene on Thursday, May 9, 1996 at the Free Will Baptist Church in Deep Run, NC. Each auxiliary should be represented by one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, plus a registration fee of \$15.00. Many auxiliaries mail their registration fee in advance. This is a good thing to do, as it saves the delegate the trouble of handling the money, and allows the State Treasurer to prepare the cards in advance. Please mail your fee before April 25, if possible to the following address.

Mrs. Nadine Crocker
568 House Road
Kenly, NC 27542

If you cannot possibly attend, please mail your fee anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.



Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year, in time to be sent to your District Treasurer before, or in time for, your District Convention. The dues are 40 cents per member per year.

Send these dues to your District Treasurer: she will keep 20 cents and sent 20 cents to your State Treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your Convention. Thank you for your past support; we know that we can continue to count on you.

Your State Treasurer
Nadine Crocker

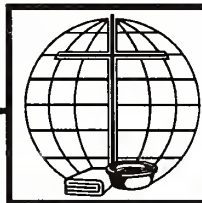
Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention Juniper Chapel FWB Church • Vanceboro, NC March 21, 1996

Theme: "Productive Praying"

Scripture: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16)

- 9:30 Registration
- 9:50 Music Medley — Youth of Juniper Chapel FWB Church
- 10:00 Call to Order — Lorraine Garner, Vice President
Prayer for Convention
Hymn #78 "Higher Ground"
- 10:20 Welcome — Connie Morris, President
Juniper Chapel FWB Church
Response — Ann Winburne, Westside FWB Church
- 10:25 Scripture & Prayer — Janie Sumner, Cabin FWB Church
- 10:35 President's Remarks — Happy Taylor, Smith's New Home FWB Church
- Appointment of Committees
- 10:45 Report of Denomination Ministries
- 11:05 Hymn #174 "In the Garden"
- 11:10 Business Session
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Recognition A-1 Auxiliaries — Nina Grace Register, First FWB Church of Kinston
Convention Offering for Camp Vandemere
- 11:30 Pin Award — Committee
- 11:40 Special Music — Mary Fillingame, Margie Coward, & Connie Morris
- 11:45 Worship Service — Rev. Ed Thornton, Dublin Grove FWB Church
- 12:15 Hymn #328 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"
Miscellaneous Business
Report of Committees
Lunch Announcements
- 12:30 Benediction & Blessing — Rev. McDonal Bennett, Juniper Chapel FWB Church
- Lunch

Music Director: Mary Fillingame
Organist: Carlton Buck
Pianist: Carrie Buck
Ushers: Mary Fillingame, Mildred Smith



**Western District
Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Friendship FWB Church • Middlesex, NC
April 3, 1996**

Theme: "You Are Not Your Own"
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Morning Session

9:15 Registration
9:45 Hymn — At Calvary
Devotion — Clentis Capps
Welcome — Mary Strickland
President's Remarks — Jean Marlowe
10:15 Hymn — I Am Thine, O Lord
Special Music — Friendship Church
News From Our Denominational Ministries — Rev. Scott Sowers

Youth Report — Cathy Creech
11:00 Hymn — Living For Jesus
Convention Offering
Special Music
Convention Message — Charlene Howell
12:00 Lunch

Afternoon Session

1:00 Hymn — Sweet By and By
Devotion and Memorial Service
Life Membership Award
Cragmont Woman's Conference Report — Donna Holland

Business Session
Closing Hymn

Called to Serve



The Rev. Michael Gauker Warning has been called to serve as pastor to the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church at 145 Nelson Neck Road in Sea Level. Deacons James Tilman Taylor (center) and Julian Gaskill (right) welcome's the Rev. Warning (left) to this new ministry. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

Ladies Auxiliary at Smith's New Home FWB Church

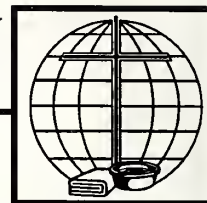
The Ladies Auxiliary will hold their Pre-Easter Service Sunday evening March 24, at 7:30 pm. Their program will feature Mr. James R. (Jim) Adams who will present the program, "An Exchanged Life." Mr. Adams is an ordained Baptist minister, free-lance writer and full-time evangelist. He is the author of three inspirational books: *I Golgotha*, *Voice Heard by the Master*, and *I Bethlehem*. His most current book is, *The Mystery of the Eagle's Eye*, the first in a series of Christian youth adventures. Mr. Adams lives in Pink Hill, NC. He may be contacted by calling 919-568-6101 or writing Box 608, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

Smith's New Home extends an invitation to the readers of the *Free Will Baptist* to join us in the momentous occasion. Inquirers may contact the minister of the church, Mr. Walter J. Sutton, 919-746-4963 or 919-752-5275

Smith's New Home has entered its second century of Christian worship and service to the glory of God. We request the prayers and encouragement of each believer in Christ as Lord and Saviour.

We will welcome your presence and assist any who may inquire about Salvation, membership and Christian service.

Walter Sutton



Westside Goes To Cragmont

We arrived at Cragmont just after 9:00 pm on Friday, January 12. Making sure we kept our priorities in order, we unpacked the van, then we put on our coats and gloves and headed for the slopes. Actually, the hill in front of the motel.

On a sled, we went down one hill, then another, and ended up somewhere between the Cragmont sign and the road, unless a tree jumped in front of us. Some in our group had never seen snow before, or so it seemed. After a few hours of sleep and breakfast, those sleds were at it again. All were thankful that no one got hurt, but those trees got mighty close to some.

After lunch and a ski lesson, we were off to Wolf Laurel, the ski resort. (Except the two that got lost in Asheville, or was that Wal-mart?) Forty of the fifty-one attending at least attempted to put on skis and glide over that white stuff on the ground. The beginner slope was the popular place to be that Saturday night. It was full of little people, middle-sized people, and the BIG people who did not know how to stay on their feet and be in control at the same time. Some gave up early and went inside to enjoy the fireplace, but others enjoyed falling in the snow all night. There was a lot of laughing and "I've fallen and I can't get up!" heard. Not all in our group were beginners. We had some real pros with us. They acted like they didn't know us.

Most were back at Cragmont by 11:30 and some enjoyed the sleds until 2:00 am.

I almost forgot about the Ping-Pong Doubles Tournament. It was close all the way. And went on for hours. Someone was heard saying, "God was on the preacher's side."

Breakfast came very early on Sunday morning. The Sunday school service was led by the Kenly FWB Church and Worship was led by Westside. Our pastor shared an inspiring message that helped us see how our life is sometimes like our skiing experience the night before.

After our worship services, everyone was on their own to return home. Some left right away. Others stayed until Sunday afternoon. But all left glad to have this weekend experience in their memory banks.

Many of the fifty-one had never been to Cragmont before and were not aware that we had such a nice place in the mountains. It might have been their first trip, but not their last.

Snow on the ground. Rocking chairs in front of a warm fire. Fellowship and laughter. Fun and excitement. Memories we'll never forget.

Registration Form

Cragmont Women's Morning Star Conferences • April 12 – 14, 1996

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Boys Dorm: _____ Girls Dorm: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball

Route 1, Box 96-B • Grifton, North Carolina 28530

A balance of \$25.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

Please make plans now to attend the Summer Conferences: June 3 – 8 • July 29 – August 3



Spring Revivals

Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church

Brother Earl Glenn, pastor of Daniel's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson NC, will conduct revival service at Smith's New Home – March 3–5. Each service will feature preaching, music, and fellowship. Services will begin at 7:30 pm.

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church

Memorial FWB Church, located on the Gray Road in Chocowinity, will have a Camp Vandemere Revival beginning Monday night, March 11, and running through Friday night, March 15. Services will begin each evening at 7:45 pm.

We will have a different speaker each night, and a different singing group each night. The following have been engaged thus far:

- Monday — The Rev. David Cauley and the choir from Wintergreen FWB Church
- Tuesday — The Rev. Joe Ratcliff and the choir from Macedonia FWB Church
- Wednesday — The Rev. McDonal Bennett and the choir from Juniper Chapel FWB Church
- Thursday -- The Rev. T. O. Terry
- Friday — The Rev. Robert Burke

Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church

Marlboro FWB Church will be having their spring revival on March 25 thru 27. Services start at 7:30 pm each night, special music will be provided each night. Everyone is invited to attend. The Evangelist will be Glenn Mills.

Thank You

The Rev. Steve Hargrove would like to thank his fellow ministers for their prayers and visits while he was in the hospital.

Thanks also, to all the churches who had me on their prayer list.

I am doing great but still covet your prayers while I am recovering.

Pastor Needed

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church is in need of a pastor. If you are interested, please write:

William Upton
5684 U.S. Highway 33 East
Chocowinity, NC 27817
or call
919-946-2869 after 7:30 pm

Free Union Free Will Baptist Church

Revival and Spritual Renewal with Evangelist Glenn Mills. He will bring messages that are challenging, encouraging, and uplifting. There will be nightly singing, don't miss the message God has for you. Free Union FWB Church (between Snow Hill and Walstonburg) March 3 – 7, Sunday is youth night 6:30 pm; Monday – Thursday 7:30 pm. For more information call: 747-3928. Nursery provided each night.



GOD AND CAESAR

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens

“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s:
and unto God the things that are God’s,” (Matthew 22:21).

What do we owe the government? What do we owe God? These questions were an issue in the day of Jesus and they remain an issue in our day.

The Tax Man Cometh

April 15 is indelibly inscribed on the calendar of Americans as the last day for paying the taxes due on our income for the previous year.

On my desk as I write these words is a 725-page book entitled *Your Income Tax 1996* which seeks to interpret the intricate and complex Internal Revenue Code. In the final analysis we owe the federal government from 15% to 39% of our taxable income. But that is not all: citizens of most states owe an additional state income tax. (In North Carolina, this tax may be up to 7%.)

When federal and state income taxes are added to property tax, sales tax, and other taxes, it means that all the average American earns from January 1 through early May is required to pay what he or she owes the government for that year. For millions of Americans, taxes represent the biggest items in their annual expenditures. But these taxes are only the first go round.

When we die, the government literally freezes our assets until the procedure is established to assure the payment of any estate taxes due the federal government and inheritance taxes due the state. If a person through hard work, good management and frugal living has accumulated a sizable net estate, the estate will owe the federal government between 37% and 55% of any amount above \$600,000; in addition there are state inheritance taxes which vary according to the relationship of the beneficiaries to the deceased. The \$600,000 exemption includes not only money but an *appraised* value, acceptable to the Internal Revenue Service, of all other assets owned by the decedent.

There are two major exceptions to the \$600,000 estate tax exemption: there are no estate or inheritance taxes on bequests to one’s spouse or bequests to qualified charities.

On the position side, there are invaluable services and benefits which the various branches of our government provide, including the defense of our country, an economy based on private enterprise, reasonable protection of our lives and our property, roads for travel and transportation, public

schools and universities, a wide-range of health services, our monetary and judicial systems, financial assistance to the poor and protection of the human rights set forth in the Constitution.

Issues about taxes reach far back into human history. When asked if the people of Judea should pay taxes to the Roman government (Caesar) which controlled their country, Jesus said “yes”; but He added that we should also render unto God what is due Him.

The Joy Of Giving

A major difference between paying taxes and making charitable gifts is that taxes are compulsory while giving is voluntary. We pay our taxes out of necessity but we give out of our own free will and the goodness of our hearts. Jesus not only supported the obligation of citizens to pay their taxes but He emphasized the practice of stewardship with the resources God has entrusted to us.

In addition to the 725-page book on income tax, there is also on my desk an 800-page book on the relationship between charitable gifts and taxes. Fortunately, the American government permits us to exempt up to one-half of our adjusted gross income from taxes through proper methods of charitable giving. Although relatively few people can give at this level, most of us could reduce our taxes through plans of giving that are within both our resources and the Internal Revenue Code.

People who wish to practice meaningful Christian stewardship can often obtain significant tax advantages by using the modes of giving most relevant to their individual circumstances.

1. ***Outright Gifts*** — While these gifts may be with money, there are sometimes more advantageous ways to give.
2. ***Life-Income Gifts*** — Gifts which pay the donor a guaranteed income for life.
3. ***Estate Planning*** — Regardless of how small or large it might be, it takes a lifetime to build an estate, and it is certainly worth a few hours to wisely plan its distribution. If we do not make our own decisions, the government will make them for us.

Life-income gifts are especially advantageous for senior citizens. For many of these people, their earning days are

past and their financial security depends upon the effective management of their assets. Through proper planning, their taxes can often be reduced, and their income increased. This area of work is highly technical and legal and it is important that the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code be followed carefully.

The Christian motive for giving, however, transcends tax considerations. Even if there were no taxes, the practice of financial stewardship is an integral part of the Christian life. Giving is more than financial; it is spiritual. Selfish people cannot grow in the image of God.

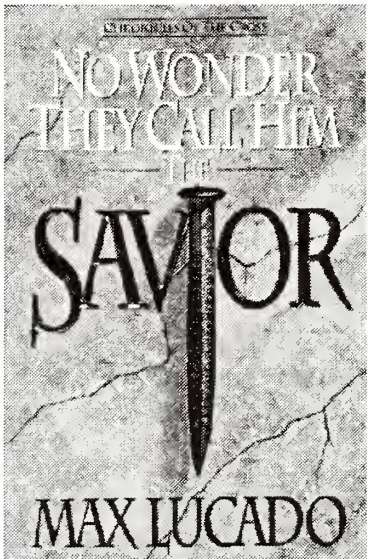
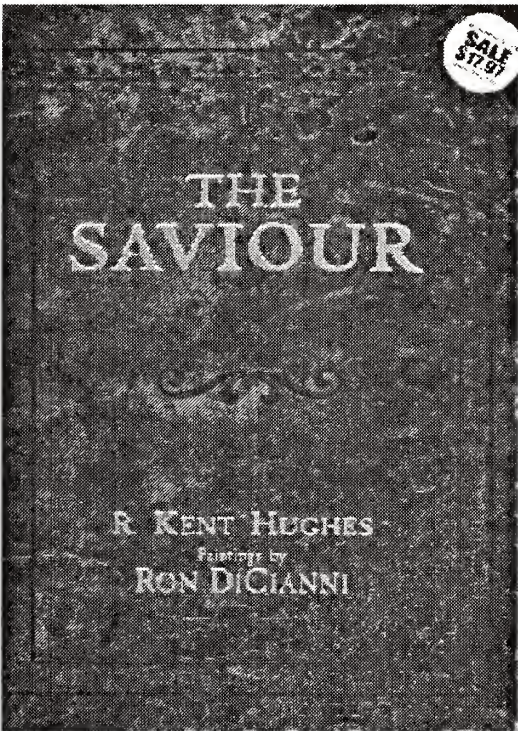
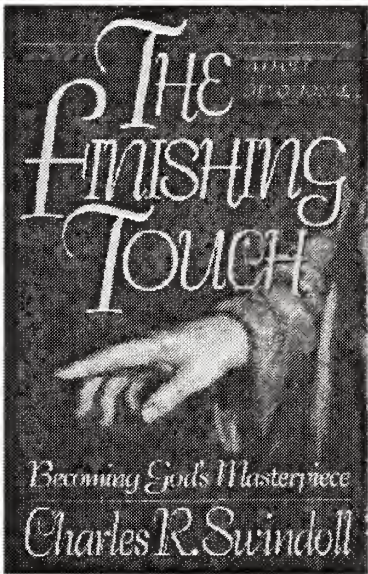
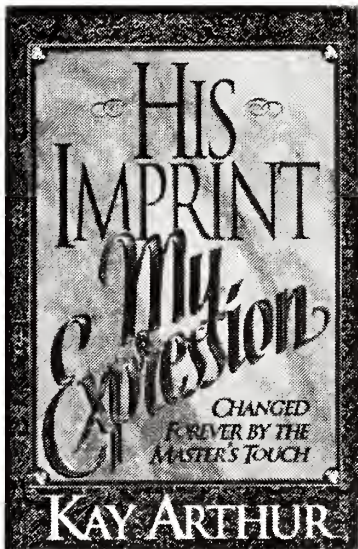
Those of us who live in America are blessed as no other people on earth or in history: but if we use the resources God

has entrusted to us only for ourselves, we will become spiritually impoverished. The happiest people on earth are those who know the joy of giving.

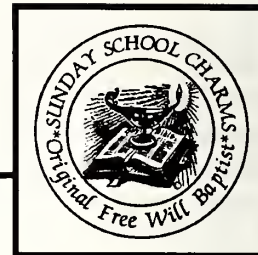
For More Information

For more information on the relationship between taxes and charitable giving, estate planning and life-income investments, readers are invited to write or call W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus of Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Phone (919): Direct to office 658-5250; Switchboard 658-2502; Home 658-3855.

We Serve A Risen Saviour!



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Ayden • Kinston • New Bern • Wilson



Catch The Vision

The following "good news" was shared with me by the Rev. Buddy Sasser, pastor of New Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church. I felt it was worthy of sharing with others. What a wonderful problem this church has encountered! Perhaps other churches are having similar experiences. If so, please send them to the Sunday School Board so that we may spread the news through this medium as well as the Sunday School newsletter which is forthcoming.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Dudley

Dear Mary,

What can we in the church do to promote, encourage, and stimulate growth? How can we reach those outside the "Hallowed Walls of the Temple?" Can we have a dynamic ministry without being seen as flashy, arrogant, or "big-time?"

The answers to these questions can be found in a statement by the Rev. Allan Dunbar, Senior Pastor of the Bow Valley Christian Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Rev. Dunbar states, "When the people of God, do the purpose of God under the power of God, a dynamic ministry is a certainty" (Billy Graham School of Evangelism — 1994).

At New Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County, God's power and purpose (Winning the lost) has come alive in His people. The following statistics shout praises to our Lord:

Sunday school attendance in the 40s and low 50s one year ago, now average close to 70.

Worship attendance one year ago averaged in the 70s, now it's around 115.

Evening worship now averages in the 70s.

Wednesday night Bible study now averages in the high 50s to low 60s.

The youth department has grown to include four divisions with a combined membership around 40, and 18–20 member youth choir, puppet ministries, and a drama club. We offer our thanks to God and to the extremely dedicated youth leaders who devote so much of their time to the spiritual growth of the children.

Still more, the Ladies' Auxiliary now includes between 20 and 25 members. The Adult choir has grown to 18 lovely voices. Additional seating has been added to the sanctuary. But the best statistic of all is the one that causes angels to rejoice. Since November 1995, 10 new Christians have been baptized and 20 new members have been added to God's family.

Even in a little country church, when God's people do God's purpose under God's power, all things are possible!
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

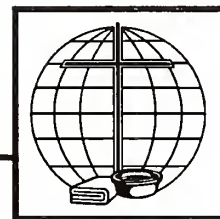
Thanks and God Bless,
Buddy

Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



Clergy Conference

The Promise Keepers Clergy Conference, held February 13-15, was the most unbelievable Conference of my life! Over 40,000 ministers gathered in the Georgia Dome to worship, learn, grow, and fellowship. Before we ever arrived in Atlanta, we knew that we would be "charged." And our expectations were truly realized.

Great men of faith spoke to us, led us in worship, challenged us, and prayed for us. They opened their hearts as they identified with the struggle of doing ministry. They brought comfort to us as they shared our pain and taught us to reach out to each other. We prayed for one another and with one another.

Ten of our ministers, eleven counting me, were part of the 1996 Clergy Conference. Revs. Gary Bailey, Fred Baker, Lewis Forsythe, Jesse Fulcher, John Robert Harris, Tim Heath, Harold Jones, Wayne King, Glenn Mills, Joey Williams, and I participated in what has been called an historic event. "There were more ministers in the Georgia Dome than there are Original Free Will Baptist members," one participant observed.

The week was filled to the brim! We arrived at the Dome at 8 a.m., after a thirty-minute train ride from the motel. We stayed until 10 p.m., with only brief breaks in what Chuck Swindoll called "the great American preach-off." The Atlanta Symphony provided the music on Tuesday evening, as we sang hymns and choruses of praise. Michael Card played and sang on Wednesday. Speakers included Tony Evans, Jack Hayford,

John Maxwell, Chuck Swindoll, Max Lucado, and E. V. Hill.

Everyone who attended agreed that they had experienced revival *and* renewal. I wish it would have been possible for me to be with each of them the Sunday following the Conference as they shared with their respective churches the "Atlanta experience!"

God is calling us to renewal. He will renew His church through renewed ministers. We were challenged to allow Him to renew us.

To God be the glory!

Lay Ministry Seminar

We have scheduled a seminar that will assist pastors and churches in developing ministry for lay people in the local church. The seminar will include both the biblical foundation and practical "how-to" material. We are committed to the task of assisting pastors as they equip the saints to do the work of ministry.

The seminar will be held at First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville. Registration material can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Free Will Baptist*.

Board Development Conference

The first annual Board Development Conference will be held at the Hampton Inn in Kinston on March 29 and 30. The Conference is designed to assist the boards and committees of our Convention in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Anyone desiring more information

should contact the Convention office by phoning (919) 746-4963.

Day of Prayer

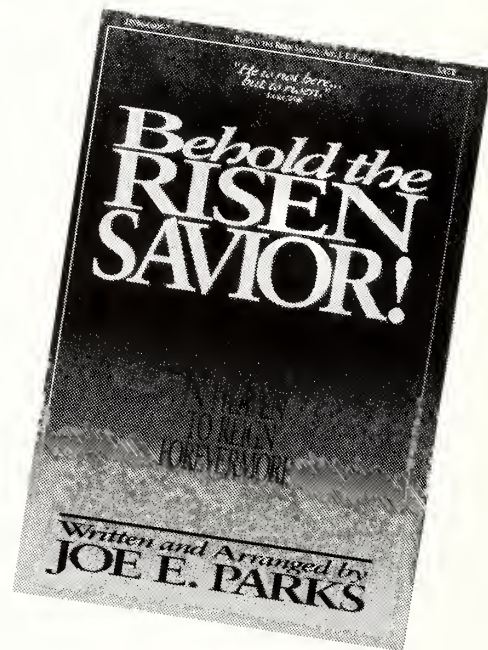
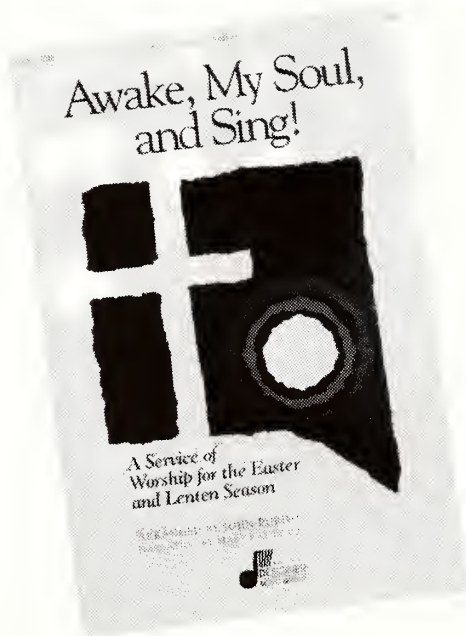
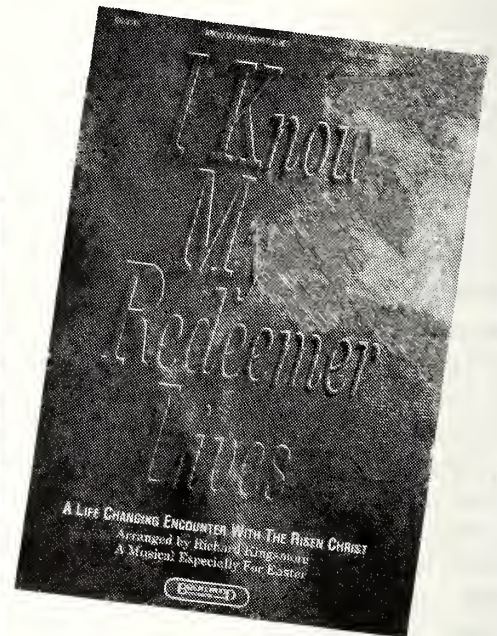
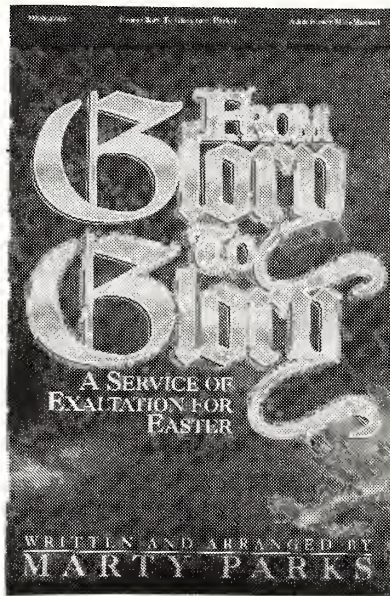
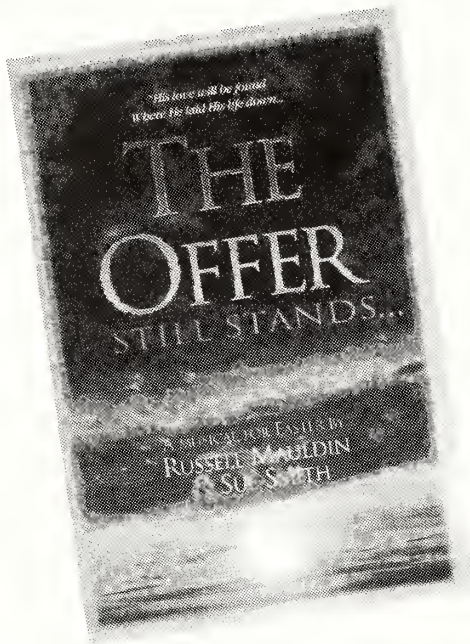
The Convention Day of Prayer is now history. We would love to hear about your church's observance(s). Let us know about the way God is moving in your church. Tell us about the special prayer requests which have been answered. As you share with us the good things which are happening in your church, we will share with others.

Send your correspondence to the Convention Headquarters, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Paul, Ephesians 4:11-16).

Your Source For Good

Easter Musicals



Available at Your Local Bible and Bookstore

Ayden • Kinston • New Bern • Wilson

Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

Do you ever feel that you have lost total control of your life? Do you ever feel that you have lost your wits end? If you have, think of the several reasons that it could be: family, spouse, job, children, and yes, even church.

I think I found a solution to that particular problem. The answer came in a discussion we were having in my Sunday School class. You can never be in total control of your life, unless, you let God take control of all aspects that have a hold on your life. That is one of God's purposes. He wants us to turn all of our problems over to Him. He wants to share our ups, downs, happy and sad times.

There is a popular song in the Christian music world sung by Twila Paris. The title is "God Is In Control". The song states that as long as God is in the center of one's life, we will never be left alone in the world. We will not go through anything that He has not experienced.

To this, Christians need to say, "Yes, I am in control of my life, but only with God's help every step of the way."

Until next month... "Let Go and Let God"

Jacy
!!
☺

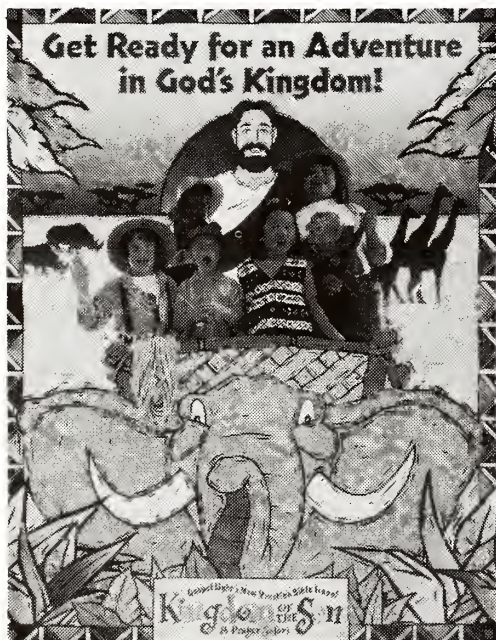
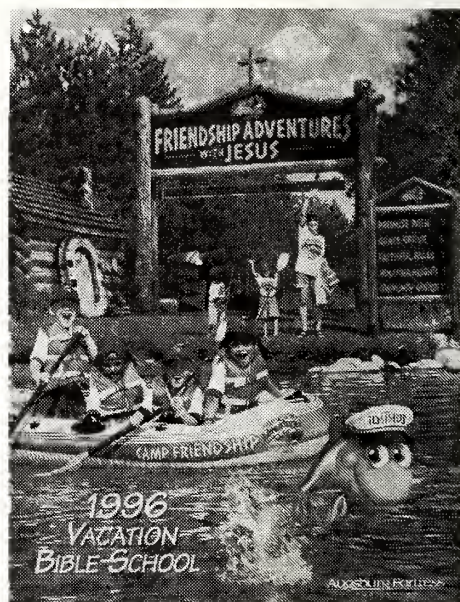
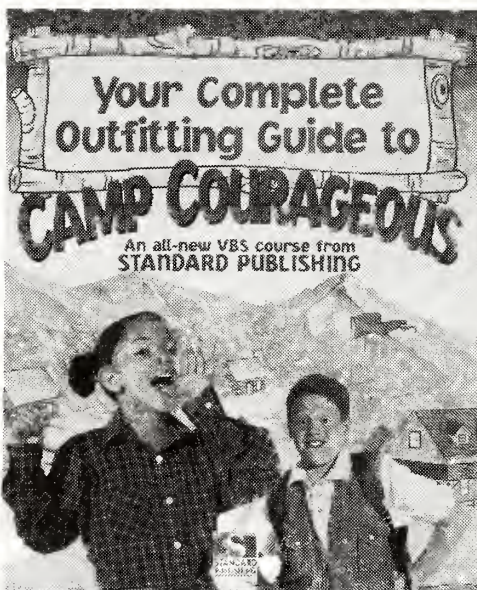
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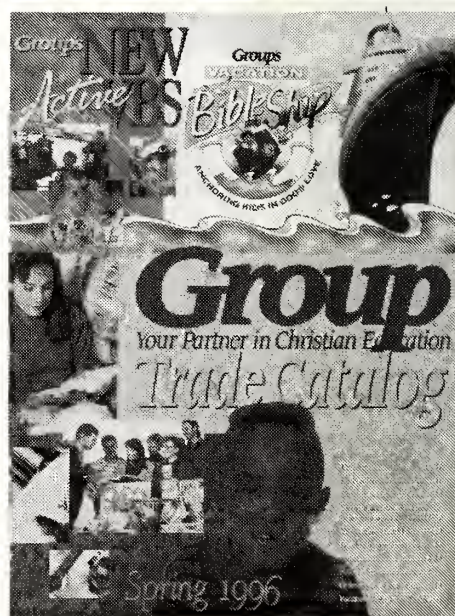


March 7th Vacation Bible School Workshop

at
Free Will Baptist Press
7:30 p.m.

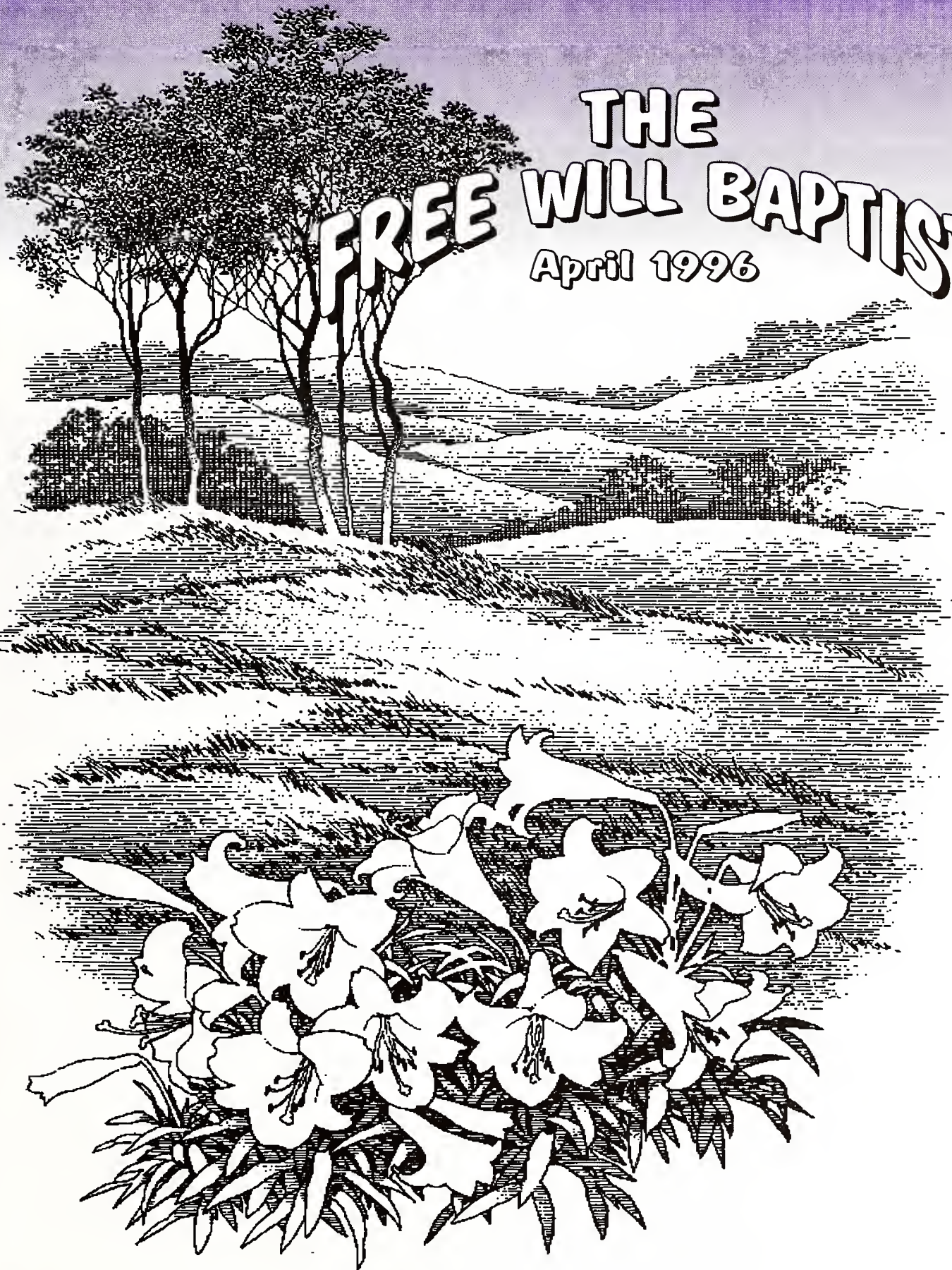


Featuring
Standard
Publishing



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

April 1996



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April • Volume 113 • Number 4

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NEXT MONTH

*May is
Children's Home
Month*

*April Is
Home Missions and
Evangelism Month*

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

All subscriptions are payable in advance: one year, \$10.07; two years, \$18.55; four years, \$36.04 (including sales tax for North Carolina residents); residents of other states, \$9.50, \$17.50, and \$34, respectively (plus sales tax where it applies). **Every-Family Plan:** A 25 percent discount given when local churches send *The Free Will Baptist* to the home of every member; names and addresses to be provided by churches. Churches are billed quarterly. **Bundle Plan:** Lots of 25 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these. A 50 percent discount is offered under this plan.

Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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Denominational Ministries

**APRIL
IS
HOME MISSIONS MONTH**
April 28, 1996
is
Home Missions Sunday

Please take a special offering for Home Missions and Evangelism on April 28, 1996. The task of Home Missions and Evangelism grows everyday and we can meet the challenge only with your generous support. Send your gifts and direct your questions to:

Original Free Will Baptist
Home Missions and Evangelism
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039

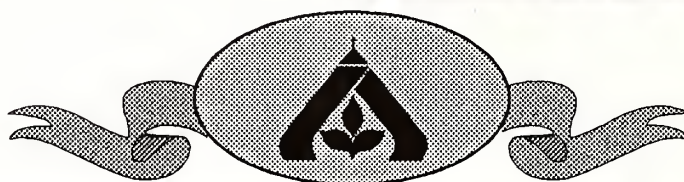
Special Announcement
Silver Creek Mission
will be organized into a church
Sunday, April 21, 1996
by
The Eastern Conference
Executive Committee
at 3:00 p.m.
You Are Invited!

Original Free Will Baptists
Expanding His Kingdom

- 20 new mission/churches by the end of 2000
- Harvest Covenant — Helping the struggling/small church
- 20 Churches involved in Discipleship Training through **Associates in Ministry (AIM)**
- 10,000 by 2000 — Prayer Partners, **Harvest Helpers**
- More people involved in volunteer missionary endeavor, **Touching Lives Corps**
- Evangelism in Action, reaching beyond the church walls — **Mobile Ministry**

Board Welcomes New Member

At its meeting on March 5, 1996, the Board of Directors of Home Missions and Evangelism welcomed the Reverend Jacky Raper (pictured at right) as a new member of the Board. He will be filling the unexpired term of the Reverend Aubrey Williamson, who resigned to become our Church Planter in Florida. Brother Raper is pastor of Friendship Original Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, North Carolina and is a member of the Western Conference. We believe he will be an asset to the department of Home Missions and Evangelism and an able representative of his Conference.



The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism at its March 5, 1996 meeting.

Seated: The Reverend Dr. A. Graham Lane, Chairman. Standing (from left to right) The Reverend Bruce Jones, Vice-Chairman; the Reverend David C. Hansley, Executive Director; the Reverend Ray Wells, President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists; the Reverend Jacky Raper; the Reverend James Owens, Secretary.

Not pictured are: the Reverend Mrs. Carlee Stallard, Mr. Howard McPherson and Mr. H. Peyton Lee.

Hmong 'n Song?

How do you sing for people who do not understand your language? Is music really a universal language? These and other questions were in the mind of the Reverend Everette Harper and Mr. Ronnie Whitley as they prepared to go to California on a singing mission for Home Missions and Evangelism.

Union Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, N.C., where the Reverend Everette Harper is pastor, provided the funds for him to go to California. A deacon, Mr. Ronnie Whitley, paid his own way so that he could participate in a missionary enterprise. At the last meeting between Everette and David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, David said to Everette, "I'll



meet you at the gate in Charlotte." Everette and Ronnie were to meet David in Charlotte and proceed from there to California together. The phrase "I'll Meet You At the Gate," stuck in Everette's mind and eventually became a song which he wrote for the mission to the Hmongs.

The trip was not exclusively to the Hmong congregations of the Lao Evangelical Church, which are associate members of our Convention, but also to the Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church in Moreno Valley. The Moreno Valley Mission/Church is predominately Cambodian, but also has others from Southeast Asia and one may encounter as many as six or seven languages being spoken there.



In the picture at left, there are Chinese, Thai, Laotian and Cambodian and maybe others. This is truly a cross-cultural mission and a unique opportunity for Original Free Will Baptists. To be able to share our faith and historic tradition with these people of Asian origin is a privilege and a duty. It is an affirmation of the commitment that we have made to truly preach the Gospel to all peoples.

10 programs in 12 days.

The group visited 9 Hmong congregations and the Cambodian congregation during their trip, a hectic schedule. Brothers Harper and Whitley were impressed with the desire of the people to know more about Jesus and the Church. They found that in spite of the language problem much communication did take place, music and Christian love speak for themselves.

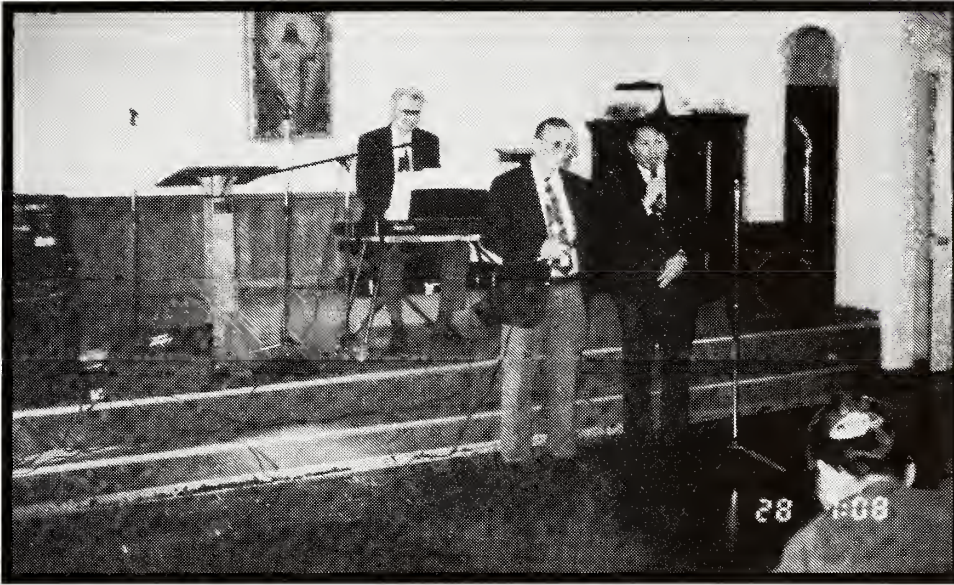
The picture at right shows a young Hmong couple who were involved in a post-wedding celebration and she is wearing a traditional Hmong costume.

The picture below shows Everette and Ronnie with a group of Hmong youth, several of whom are wearing Hmong clothing. Almost all of the young people speak and understand English and these were thrilled with the singing.



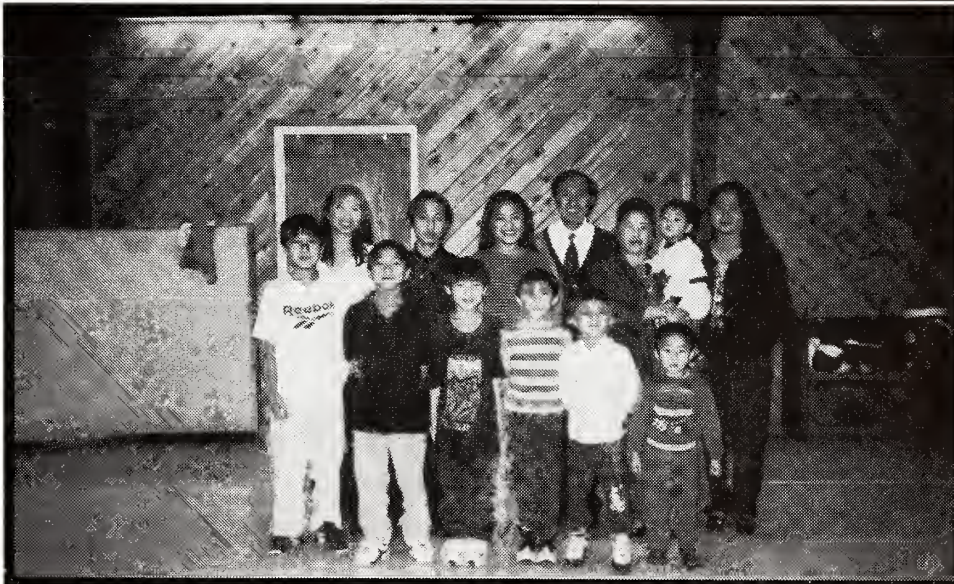
Brother Everette Harper said the experience did more for him than it did for the people to whom he ministered. When asked if he would be willing to go back, he responded that he was concerned about timing but was very willing to go again. He would remember the experiences of the "Trip to California" for the rest of his life. Once again, a volunteer missionary has made a meaningful contribution.

Volunteer Missionaries! They pay their own way or they are helped by their church or conference or friends. Brother Everette Harper (who is also moderator of the Albemarle Conference) went courtesy of Union Chapel Church and Brother Ronnie Whitley paid his own way. They went as so many others have, to serve God's people. Home Missions and Evangelism has a special category, Touching Lives Corps (TLC), to provide an avenue for such service. It developed out of a need and influenced by the many who have served in California, always being sponsored by church or friends. If you would like to serve such a mission, in California, Florida or here in Eastern North Carolina, feel free to contact Home Missions and Evangelism, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0039.



Speaking through a translator is new to Brother Ronnie Whitley, but he didn't let it keep him from sharing his faith with the Hmong people. In the picture at left he is trying to overcome language and culture barriers to share his love of Jesus our Lord with his newfound Hmong brethren. He, too, would go again if the opportunity were made available.

At right, the Reverend Everette Harper, Brother Ronnie Whitley, Dr. Bob Harber and Dr. David C. Hansley are sharing a meal with some of the Hmong people. A sharing which is unique because of the food. Hmong food is different, just how different defies description, but it includes a lot of rice and very hot spices. Most Eastern North Carolinians would have to develop a taste for it.



The Hmong culture encourages large families. The Reverend Vang Thao, pastor of the Lao Evangelical Church at Merced California has adopted many American customs, but is still a Hmong. At left, he is shown with his wife and their eleven (11) children. Vang Thao is a very capable and concerned pastor, earnestly desiring to learn and grow so that he may better minister to his people.

Harvest Covenant

a new program
to help the
struggling church



The Harvest Covenant program was created to offer the small and / or struggling congregation some help in finding ways to become the Church Christ would have it become, to enable it to once again "Magnify the Name of the Lord."

With the Harvest Covenant program your church can move from a declining situation to a growing functioning congregation as your people:

- **DISCOVER** the true mission of the Church
- **DEVELOP** outreach ministries
- **REVERSE** the declining situation
- **DRAW** closer to each other and to the Lord
- **GAIN** lifelong experiences
- **UNDERSTAND** why we serve
- **LEARN** about discipleship

REMEMBER—

No church has to stay in a declining state, waiting to disappear. With faith, commitment and hard work any church can become the Church Christ called it to be.

Let Us Help!

Contact:

Home Missions and Evangelism
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Telephone: (919) 746-4963

TRAVELLING

Dedicated to a very special woman and sister In Christ, Louise Webb, in whose home I lived during 3 months in 1995.

After staying for three months in North Carolina, I left for Holland on Tuesday, November 7, 1995.

Dirk, our youngest son, took me to the airport, Raleigh-Durham. It poured down rain and we could hardly see where we were going. On arriving in the airport, I was informed that the departure time had changed and my plane was due to leave in one hour.

As some good friends had planned to see me off, I was almost in panic. I thought that I had five waiting hours because Dirk had to leave for his job straight away, but now everything had to happen very fast. I could reach Sandra Jones by telephone but the Joyners, Rev. James and his wife Virginia were already on the road.

While the passengers were already boarding I ran up and down the row to see if they were coming. I am sure the people thought that I was heading for the first flight of my life and scared to death. In the very last minute I saw them coming. I tell you it was a stormy but heartwarming farewell!

The rest of the trip went all right. The connection in Detroit was made and the next morning I was welcomed by Willem's brother in Amsterdam. I stayed in his home for one week to prepare everything for the car-trip to East Europe.

I called Willem and was very happy to hear his voice again. He sounded very weak but assured me that he was being taken care of real well. Tesdzjan, her mother and Dr. Peter, who lives above us in his apartment, have done everything to help him. I made a short visit to our children and grandchildren to kiss them goodbye, gather Willem's and my belongings from their homes and left for Zeist, a city in the center of Holland where we have evangelical friends.

Two brothers of their group took vacation to take me and my luggage and also boxes with clothes for the poor

which was their gift, to East Europe.

In the meantime winter swept into West Europe. We should leave on Saturday, November 18, but the men used this day to change the tires and buy special snow-tires for the trip. Sunday morning we left, the men did all the driving and I sat in the back, built in between boxes, paint (for Willem), food, cans with cola, bread for the trip, suitcases and warm snowjackets.

Halfway to Germany it started snowing and when we reached München, in South Germany, there was also ice-rain. In München we were invited by a sister of a church member in Zeist. We found her home and spent the night there. The next morning we literally slipped out of München and passed the border of Germany-Austria without any trouble. Austria is a beautiful country but not when you are fighting with sliding boxes and suitcases around you and can not see anything because all the snow of Europe seems to concentrate around you.

We reached Hungary late in the evening and found a good hotel for overnight. They spoke German, so we ordered some soup and after that went to the nice heated rooms after making the appointment to meet at 7:30 in the morning.

At 8 am we were on the road again (Willie Nelson) and reached the Romanian border at 11 o'clock. Of course we had our faithful companion "Mr. Snow," only this day it turned very cold and the wind made it very dangerous. We wanted to reach the Danube River and go over by ferry, this is also the border between the two countries, R. and B. Because of the snow we could not read the roadside signs and suddenly we found ourselves in a group of hundreds of people, mostly women and children. They came to us and they looked frightened and tired, then we saw the soldiers. They were very surprised and came to ask where we were heading.

One of them spoke German and he informed us that we were at the Yugo Slavian border! They were very helpful and showed us the shortest way to the ferry. Up to today I have no idea whether they were Serbs, Croats, Slavs or whatever.

We arrived at the ferry at 6 o'clock in the evening. It was far below zero and still snowing. We waited, waited and waited. Cars came behind us, beside of us, row after row. Nobody knew what time the ferry should leave. We stood on the ferry parking and understood that this night the ferry should not ride.

There were no shops for a warm drink, also no toilets. Now and then my companions started the car-engine for some warmth. We ate our last Dutch sandwich and drank a nice COLD cola. We could not complain and thought about the poor people at the Bosnian border with their boxes and their children. Where could they be now? The other morning around 10 we drove up the ferry and at 12 we passed the last border.

The last day of travelling went very fast. We sang in the car with Christian tapes, drank delicious hot coffee in a road restaurant and headed home.

We arrived at about 4 o'clock and were very thankful that the Lord kept us in His hands. When I saw Willem and Tesdzjan, Peter and the neighbors I forgot already the tough night.

Thank you for your prayers and be sure that it made all the difference...

Lydia



The churches in India and Nepal are strictly adhering to the theme for the year 1996 and beyond — YEAR OF RENEWAL — PRAYER AND GROWTH! Sundays have been set aside for prayer and fasting to achieve the target. We earnestly hope that much will be accomplished through these endeavors.

Even though it was the bitterest cold, yet the work of the church still continued in reaching the Word to the unreached. Evangelistic and revival meetings in Northern India were in the offing which kept us extremely busy, not realizing much of the cold weather. The last meeting that we concluded was at Kareli circuit, District Bareilly under the charge of the Rev. Ratan Paul. It was a tremendous success when promises and commitments for the growth of the church through preaching were made by several people of the congregation. This congregation of rural people is growing spiritually and numerically.

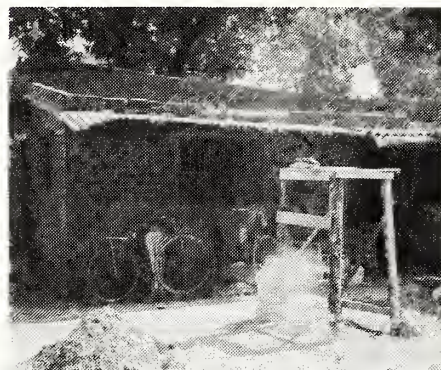


Evangelistic meeting at Kareli Circuit

There was a pressing need for the complete renovation of our motor garage at the church campus. The entire roof has been raised high and replaced with new cement sheets as the old ones were cracked and leaking during rainfall. We thank the Lord for enabling us to complete this job.

Ever since Emmanuel Martin our church driver left working with us to

start his own electric work after he was married, we did not get a Christian driver until he returned to us in December, consequent on failure of his business. He lives 12 miles away from the church and has a real problem in coming early and going back late. We, therefore, thought to provide him a living accommodation in the church campus. So, we converted a part of our old godowns (storage room), renovated, plastered and painted it, thereby making two rooms, attached with a bathroom. Although we had realized this need when we heard the tale of woe of our drivers, but we never thought we would ever be able to provide him with a house. As we contributed personally and requested to the local church, the need was fulfilled. The driver, along with his family, is moving to this house today. Indeed, the Lord works wonderfully!



Storage room converted to housing for driver's family.

We have been blessed with another English Medium Primary School at Tribeni Chowk in the country of Nepal when the school session re-opened in early December. We got an enrollment of 130 students. Mr. Bhakta Rizal, Nepali National young man born in the country of Bhutan is the Principal of the institution. It was decided that a part of the school expense should be met by the school itself, while provision of the two teachers and the security money to

be deposited with Government of Nepal shall be provided by the church. A partial help to start with the school was made by us to the tune of rupees 8000.00 in Nepali currency. We hope that this new school will enable our people to save the lost souls from perishing. We covet the prayers of our counterparts for the new venture.



Mr. Bhakta Rizal, Principal of new english medium school, at Tribeni Chowk, Nepal.

Our Director Treasurer, of the Board of the Foreign Missions, who inspected the work in Nepal in November last, in consultation with me, had opined that we appoint a Field Director, exclusively for our work in Nepal and, post him to Pallia, District, Lakhimpur Kheri, in U.P. India. Our field work in Nepal is about 22 miles from Pallia where the work can be looked after more effectively than from Barielly. The Rev. William Samuel, Pastor in charge at Bareilly was selected for this new assignment. The Rev. William Samuel along with his family has moved from Bareilly to Pallia after his consecration on Sunday, February 4, 1996. The local church and council of Ministers gave him an inspiring send off. The Rev. William Samuel has been asked to start effective training work for selected Nepali converts for Deaconship so that they may preach the Gospel and win the lost souls. We look forward to great development in our work in Nepal by the time our Director - Treasurer visits here again this year.

A Daring Tiny Congregation, The Gospel El Shaddai Ministries of the Free Will Baptist Church, Cebu City, Phillippines

by Lorame Q. Pagente



Rev. William Samuel and his wife were consecrated and commissioned on 2/4/96.



Republic Day Celebration

The 47th Republic Day celebration was the highlight of January 26, 1996, in our church when the National Flag was hoisted by me, describing the achievements of our country, and praying for the prosperity of the Nation and wisdom to the leaders.

Dr. E.M. Lall



The Gospel El Shaddai Ministries of the Free Will Baptist Church had a unique beginning. It was founded by Faith Preocillo, the daughter of our Phillippine Field Director, the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo, and five other people including myself. With our own support, we rented a 27 square meter room for our church gatherings. Only one of us had a job then, and we badly needed ₱7,500 for a down payment, which is one month advance, plus two months deposit. It was a miracle! God provided this amount and we were able to get the place. In five months time, with daily prayers at 5:30 pm after office hours, we would rush to that small room to pray, asking God for more people and jobs for the rest of us who were still seeking at that time. On Sundays after church we would go out to all our friends and tell them about Jesus. People were beginning to come to church until we could no longer be contained in that small room. So again we asked God for a better place which is three times bigger, but only twice as expensive. With just one year stay in that small room, God provided the amount ₱20,000 for the down payment of another place that we had been praying for. For ₱5,000 monthly rent, excluding maintenance, by faith we moved to the new place the first of February 1996. This building is usually closed on Sundays, but now for the first time is open through God's intervention. They accommodate us in that place knowing that our main use falls on Sundays. God is always good to us. Though we did not have the funds for the venture, we believed in five months time, with God's help through generous people, we will overcome! Hallelujah!

What makes the Gospel El Shaddai Ministries more unique is the fact that our team of leaders have our respective Bible Studies and cell groups. Besides, during Sunday anyone of us can preach or hold Sunday school classes within a very short notice. Stewardship and discipleship teachings are always mentioned in every message delivered. Integrity in financial records is kept and is always maintained. Also, any member who is seeking a job is always helped through prayers and job referrals until that job seeker finds a job. A member who cannot afford to rent a room for the evening is accommodated in our house church for free until such member gets a house of their own.

Since almost all members are working full-time during the day, we do our church work at night except on Sundays. We are holding evangelistic crusades every now and then. No wonder we have so many prospects for evangelism and so many sympathizers. The first group of discipleship training has been launched and is still going on. The wonderful thing about this is sympathizers extend their support, especially financially. Statistics in our data show that every person brings one person to Christ every month. Our records show that we are having a twenty-five percent increase on our finances monthly, because people are giving even sacrificially. It's not how much you give, but how much is left after you give that matters.

We earn money not only for ourselves, but also in buying Bibles for other churches, especially the Free Will Baptist Church work in Mandaue and Bulacao, Cebu. Last December we sent out used clothing from our local congregation to the pastors in Palawan. We paid the registration for twelve pastors to attend an International Conference on Church Growth in Ozamis City for one week at a cost of ₱4,000. The delegates included our Missions Director and his wife, Pastor Dario Basingil and

A Daring Tiny Congregation Cont....

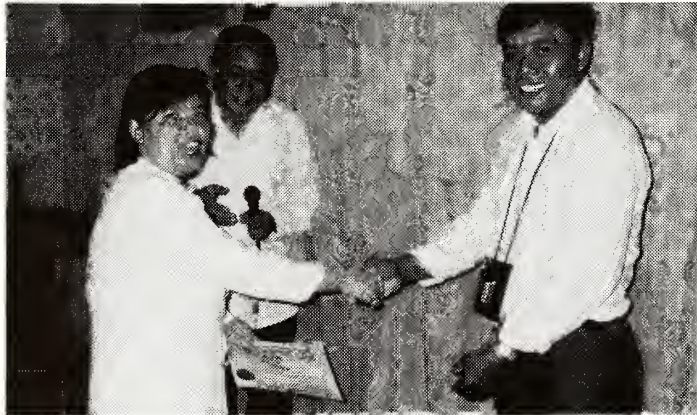
Susan, the Mission Secretary, Rosana Briones and Pastor Pio dela Rosa, all from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

I then urged that two members of our evangelistic team be invited to go to Palawan in order to challenge our pastors there. The time of harvest is at hand and this is the time to grow our own local churches. To share with them our house-to-house evangelism experience and conduct evangelistic crusades, thereby growing spiritually and materially. However, the above suggestion is only effective when coupled with rigid Godly follow-up.

We have always believed that the best ground to sow seeds is in the work of the Lord, especially among the laborers of God. Our Cebu congregation has always believed in sowing and reaping, the key to all of God's teachings in the Parables.

I believe that everyone who reads this article will be inspired to pray for our spiritual and financial needs. We need each other. We are determined to live by the principles of "BEING BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!" Prominent in the church activity is biblical counseling which most churches lack. We don't wait for people to come to us for help. The moment God has a message through the Holy Spirit, we deliver it hot on the plate. The members have accepted it as the wisest way of growing the church into a special family — God's Family!

"...the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32b).



Faith Perocillo, founder, receiving TEE certificate.



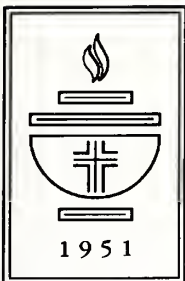
Lorame Q. Pagente and daughter.

We Pass But Once

*We pass along this way of life,
Just once, both you and I.
The good that we can do down here,
We'll be remembered by.
For birth to death, we make our mark
Upon the lives of all!
So Let us make a mark within
To all both great and small.
A mark of love, to all we meet,
While here upon this earth.
So when the Lord shall call us home,
We'll have that brand-new birth.
The new birth that Jesus speaks about
Within His Holy Word.
A birth with life forever more,
That man has never heard.
We pass just once, so let us live,
As Christ would have us to.
So when the Lord shall call us home,
We'll have a life anew!*

*Peggy Hawley
Stancil's Chapel*

Ryan Gray — *Student With a Focus*



Five years from now, Ryan Clifford Gray is going to be a tennis pro at a country club. He's not just dreaming about it, he is working towards his goal every day.

Ryan, 19, is the son of Becky and Raymond "Cliff" Gray of Crosswinds Drive in Goldsboro. He is the oldest — by minutes — of triplets, sharing the same birthday with his sister, Hy, and his brother, Berry. There is also an older sister, Jennifer, who is married and lives in Lenoir City. And the family cat, Callico.

The Gray family belongs to the Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro. Cliff is well known among the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists serving as Executive Director of the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden.

Ryan is currently a sophomore at Mount Olive College majoring in Recreation and Leisure Studies. He is an honor student with a 3.2 grade point average. Serious about his tennis, Ryan is a member of the college's tennis team playing in the Number 2 position in men's singles and doubles.

The tennis bug bit Ryan and his sister, Hy, when they were in the 8th grade. He said that he was looking for a sport that provided him with opportunities, and tennis filled the bill. The brother and sister had each other to play with, and their

games developed nicely. Both played at Charles B. Aycock High School. While there, Ryan and Hy both captured accolades, including MVP, all conference, and regional honors.

When Ryan came to Mount Olive College, his sister went to UNC-Asheville, where she is majoring in history and also playing tennis, and his brother went to Appalachian State University, where he is majoring in community and regional planning.

Being Free Will Baptist, Ryan said that he always knew about Mount Olive College.

"I picked Mount Olive College because I am Free Will Baptist and it's close to home," Ryan said. "I like it because the college is small and provides more opportunity to make close friends. And the teachers are also closer to you."

Ryan credits his parents for "raising him and his brother and sister right." He said that he believes his priorities are in the right order and that he knows the difference between right and wrong. Beyond school work and tennis, Ryan enjoys being with his friends. His "quiet hobby" is building models.

Ryan is satisfied that everything he is doing now is helping him achieve his goal. His course work and playing on the



team are each developing different dimensions of what he will eventually need to be a teaching pro. The course work gives him coaching techniques and program development, and the competition is improving his game.

When he is not at Mount Olive College studying or playing, Ryan is likely to be found at the Goldsboro Country Club where he understudies tennis pro Mitch Adler.

"No doubt, Ryan will achieve his goal and be a tennis pro in five years," said Dr. Mac Cassell, athletics director at the college. "This young man is quiet, focused, a good student, and a good athlete. He knows where he's going and how to get there."

Wanted: Athletic Director, Coach, Instructor, Husband, Father

When it comes to determining where athletics fit in higher education, there is no second guessing what one man thinks. "Academics are number one, and athletics are number two," said Mac Cassell, athletics director at Mount Olive College. "I tell this to all coaches and student-athletes."

This ordering of priorities is a major reason why Mac was selected as athletics director in 1994. It is something that is personally important to him as an instructor and coach and to the college as an institution of higher learning. It's a philosophy that is espoused by most people associated with athletics,

but not one that is always lived by.

"If student-athletes are doing their job with priorities one and two, then they won't have any time left for priority three," reads the gospel according to Mac Cassell. Translation: Student-athletes who are on top of their studies and dedicated to their team don't have any time to waste or get into trouble.

Mac knows what he's talking about. Don't let the informality of his nickname lead you astray. Mac is, in fact, Dr. Allen M. Cassell, professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies. His credentials include a bachelor's degree (1973) from the State

University of New York at Brockport, master (1974) and doctoral (1978) degrees from Ohio State University, and a few post doctoral courses.

Add to this, a five-year stint as director of athletics at Alderson-Broadbent College in West Virginia, where he taught and coached, and throw in a tour of duty in Vietnam (1967-68) courtesy of the United States Marine Corps, and you have a person who has been around the block a time or two. In all, Mac has 23 years experience teaching and coaching.

"The best part about being athletics director is working with great people," Mac said. "The worst part is the number of hours required to do this job." When he takes off his instructor's hat, he puts on his coach's hat. And, when he takes off his coach's hat, he puts on his athletics director's hat as administrator and coach of the other coaches. Not too many books tell someone how to fit 30 hours into a 24-hour day.

And Mac also happens to be the husband of Linda Cassell, and father of Justin, 18, a freshman at Mount Olive College, and Megan, 17, a junior at Southern Wayne High School. The family belongs to the First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive.

Even with the long hours, Mac seems to enjoy his work. For one thing, he is always smiling. He said that he likes what he is seeing at Mount Olive College and at other colleges in the Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference.

"Our program is in very good shape," Mac said. "We have 12 teams in intercollegiate play. We had a great first year in women's soccer and men's and women's cross-country. We have great coaches and great kids."

On his "things to do" list, Mac is working to generate interest in an athletic booster program to rally the support among former student-athletes — now alumni, parents, staff, faculty, and friends of the college. Other items on his list are facilities improvements which include finishing work on a new soccer field and upgrading the women's softball field and tennis facilities.

Mac is also excited about Mount Olive College's membership in the newly formed Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference. The conference is in its first full year and consists of 11 member schools competing at the NCAA Division II level. Mac serves as chairman of the conference's athletics directors committee.

"I'm very pleased because I think the philosophy of the conference is in the right place," Mac said. He maintains that conference members are all similar in emphasis on academics, size, scholarships, facilities, and budgets.

"We are competing on an even playing field," he said.

"Most importantly, the conference provides an environment where student-athletes who are talented and work hard can excel," Mac said. "There is plenty of talent out there. Mount Olive College is a place where kids can get a very good liberal arts education and develop their athletic talents."

Where will the athletic program be in

five years?

"I'd like to see our teams at or near the top of the conference in all sports," Mac said, hastening to add, "so long as our student-athletes remember what is priority one and what is priority two. If they do, they'll drive out of here after four years with a diploma, proud of what they've accomplished in the classroom and on the athletic field."



Honor Day At MOC



High school seniors from Free Will Baptist churches recently attended Honors Day at Mount Olive College. Left to right, pictured are: Jennifer Parker, Westside FWB Church in Lenoir County; Josh Kriger, Riverside FWB Church in Wayne County; Jackie Stocks, Reedy Branch FWB in Pitt County; Heather Honeycutt, St. Mary's Grove in Johnston County; Jennifer Casey, Micro FWB Church in Johnston County; Becky Craft, Friendship Church in Greene County; Lorin David Smith, St. Mary's FWB Church in Craven County, and Anthony Bennett, Antioch FWB Church in Craven County. (Photo by Shasta McAllister)

Church Night at Mount Olive College

Some 400 people representing 30 churches filled College Hall for this year's Church Night at Mount Olive College. It was good to see many of you. Thank you for making the trip to Mount Olive!

During the past 13 years that Church Night has been held, 237 churches have attended with more than 3,000 people. This is a great show of support.

This year, **St. Mary's FWB Church** from Craven County was the largest group with 49 people. Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, presented the First Place Attendance Certificate to **Jeffrey Simpson**.



Jeffrey Simpson, St. Mary's FWB Church, 1st Place.

The second largest group was from **Pine Level FWB Church** with 48 church members. Accepting the Second Place Award Certificate was **Stephanie Hogg**.



Stephanie Hogg, Pine Level FWB Church, 2nd Place.

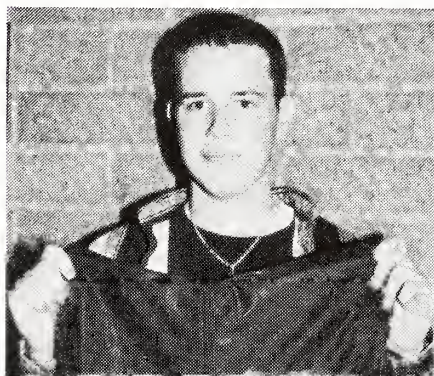
Third Place for attendance went to **Shady Grove FWB Church** with 28 people, and fourth place went to **Rains Cross Roads FWB Church**. Both are from Johnston County.

During half-time of the game between Mount Olive College and Coker College, basketball shooting contests were held in four categories for church members.

Winners were:



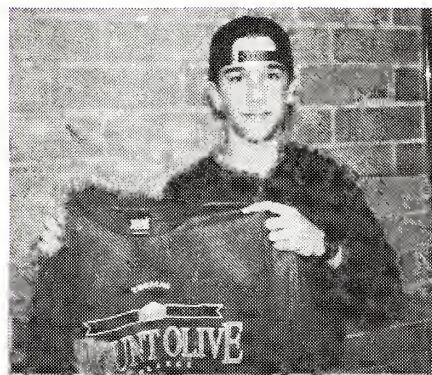
In the grade K-8 category, **Vernon Herring, White Oak Grove FWB Church** in Lenoir County;



In the grade 9-12 category, **Josh Whitfield, Rooty Branch FWB Church** in Duplin County;



In the out-of-school category, **Tammie Albertson, Bethlehem FWB Church** in Duplin County;



In the 3-point category, **Alex Joyner, Little Rock FWB Church** in Wilson County.

A big thank you goes to **Dianne Riley**, her assistants, **Vicki Stroud** and **Shasta McAllister**, in the College's Admissions Office, and to the students who all helped make Church Night the success that it was.

In April at Mount Olive College

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm
Mount Olive College Choir
• Concert, Rodgers Chapel

Thursday, April 18, 8:00 pm
Mount Olive Singers Spring Fling, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

Thursday, April 25, 11:00 am
Awards Day, Rodgers Chapel & Murphy Center

Saturday, April 27 all day
FWB Youth Convention Competitions, Rodgers Chapel, College Hall & Henderson Building



APRIL

IS HOME MISSIONS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	
31	1	2	3
7 <i>Easter Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	8 <i>Easter Monday</i>	9	10
14	15	16 + Convention Officers 9:30 am	17
21	22	23 + Convention Executive Committee, 10:00 am ○ Sunday School Board	24
28	20	30	1

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRE

G E N D

ous/following month
 nt month

- Sunday School

▲

Cragmont Assembly

●

Foreign Missions

+

FWB Convention News

✦

FWB Press Deadline
- ▼

Home Missions
- ◆

Layman's League
- ✿

Mount Olive College
- ★

Conference Meeting
- Union Meeting
- ✿

Woman's Auxiliary

	THU	FRI	SAT
Auxiliary	<div>4</div> <div> <div>+</div> <div>Youth & Family Committee</div> <div>6:00 pm</div> </div>	<div>5</div> <div> <div>■</div> <div>Pee Dee Union Meeting</div> </div> <div>Good Friday</div>	<div>6</div> <div> <div>✿</div> <div>Pee Dee Auxiliary</div> </div>
Auxiliary	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>
	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div> <div>✿</div> <div>Piedmont Auxiliary</div> </div>
	<div>25</div> <div> <div>+</div> <div>Minister's Program Board</div> </div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div> <div>+</div> <div>Lay Ministries Seminar</div> <div>1st Church, Greenville</div> <div>9:00 am</div> </div>
	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>
	May is Children's Home Month		

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

C R A G M O N T



Spring is the time of renewal. It is God's reminder to us that the sleep and death of winter ends and that the revival of creation begins.

Our Christian walk has its own seasons.

There are times when we know victory and times too often when we know defeat. But the Bible says that we are to be "instant in season and



heroines renewed their faith, but also practical, everyday ways that you and your family and your church can have revival each day on the Journey...in season and out of season.

The retreat is only \$50 per person. The retreat cost covers your room, meals and study materials. A \$10 per person deposit reserves your space on the retreat which is May 3-5, 1996 starting at 8:00pm. Cragmont Club members may use their

genesis

R E T R E A T W E E K E N D

out of season." How can we as Christians continually be in a state of renewal? How can we know the joy that surpasses all understanding? How do we come to the place where Paul says "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"?

Expect to Learn

Expect to Worship

Expect to have Fun!

The *Genesis Retreat* is weekend-long study and discussion in personal and corporate renewal. Revival doesn't have to take place just in your church on special occasions. It can happen in your work; it can happen in your school; it can happen at home; it can happen to you. This retreat will explore not only how our Biblical heroes and

benefits on this retreat and attend at no extra cost. Please make your reservation by April 15, 1996 so that we may have a final count of participants.

Expect to learn. Expect to worship. Expect to have fun!

Renovation Update!

Demolition on the north end of the Main Building began the first week in March! The crews are working even in the face of falling temperatures. Please pray for us that all will go as it should and that the reconstruction will go smoothly!



Genesis Retreat Registration Form

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____

zip code _____

church _____

phone _____

of participants _____

total deposit: \$.00

Please Note:

Cragmont Club members just write "Club" in for your deposit. Make checks payable to Cragmont Assembly. Send this completed form with your deposit to:

Genesis
c/o Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

Remember! It's never too late to give what you can to help Cragmont in this time of transition. If you, your family or your church would like to make an After Jubilee pledge or just donate funds to this effort please complete the pledge form and return it to Cragmont.



Cragmont...What A Place To Be!



Nancy Boykin heads for her room.



Kenly FWB ski group.



Howard Scott and the 4H Leadership group from Goldsboro.



Westside FWB is always ready for lunch!



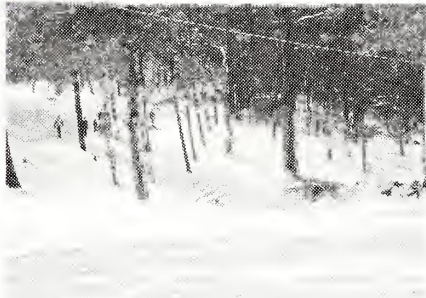
Westside FWB ski group



Bob & Celeste Fussell pose after a long day's skiing.



Marsh Swamp FWB ski group.



Sledding at Mt. Cragmont!



John preaches to Westside.



The 4H group enjoys a warm supper on a cool night.



Beulaville FWB Youth!



There's always nothing but smiles at Cragmont.

After Jubilee is a way for you to commit to God's ministry at Cragmont. We are asking that you make a pledge of \$1000 by the year 2000. To pledge, simply fill out the information below and return to:

Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

- ☐ \$50 quarterly
- ☐ \$100 semiannually
- ☐ \$200 per year
- ☐ \$1000 in full
- ☐ other _____

Yes! You can count on me (us) to make my (our) pledge of \$1000 to make *After Jubilee* a reality. I (we) have checked my (our) choice of stewardship above.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Features

Vivian B. Harrison Lecture:

The Message of Good News

Dr. Pepper Worthington • Writer-in-Residence • Mount Olive College

"What is preaching?" asked Dr. Alvin L. Reid, guest lecturer for the Vivian B. Harrison Lecture at Mount Olive College. "Preaching is the timeless link of God's great act and man's understanding of it," he answered. "The preacher's job is to bridge the gap between God and man," he added.

The day of lectures began as sure as dogwoods in spring. A certain robustness filled Rodgers Chapel this Tuesday, February 27, as if to renew the memory of Vivian B. Harrison and provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and lay persons of eastern North Carolina.

The series of lectures unfolded like a napkin, each part connected to the other. Dr. Reid introduced the evangel as one who communicates a good message, a hope, a victory, an event (*Kerygma*). The message of the good news has not changed since Paul's day. Control to the evangel's message are six points:

1. *Jesus fulfills the Old Testament teaching of the coming of the Messiah.*
2. *Jesus lived among men and did good deeds.*
3. *Jesus was crucified according to God's plan.*
4. *Jesus was resurrected, raised, and exalted to heaven.*
5. *Jesus is coming again in judgment.*
6. *Jesus commands that we repent and trust God.*

Trained to teach evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, Dr. Reid suggested how-to-steps in communicating the message of the good news. Among the most important techniques of communication are these six:

1. *The preacher must feel the urgency of the gospel.*
2. *The preacher must know our popular culture.*
3. *The preacher must have a personal time for reflection, meditation, remembrance of Jesus.*
4. *The preacher must not be ashamed of the gospel and not be afraid to support its cause.*
5. *The preacher must study the message.*
6. *The preacher must be able to communicate to our culture.*

Dr. Reid stressed the importance of the fourfold world in communicating the Kerygma: (1) the world of the past, (2) the world of today, (3) the world of the immediate ministry, (4) the personal world of the self.

What Really Matters?

In a whirlwind of lists, Dr. Reid noted what college students are most ardent about. They care about relationships, the choice of a career, finding a mate. They often think about where they are today rather than where they are headed. In the midst of the storm and stress of life, what really matters? Dr. Reid listed four things that really matter:

1. *What really matters is that God loves us. The love is agape.*
2. *What really matters is that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.*
3. *What really matters is that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins.*
4. *What really matters is that God comes to us.*

The Messenger of the Good News

Dr. Reid introduced Martin Luther's list of traits that the messenger of the good news should possess. These ten traits include:

1. The messenger should teach plainly.
2. The messenger should have a good head.
3. The messenger should have the good power of language.
4. The messenger should have a good memory.
5. The messenger should know when to stop.
6. The messenger should be willing to stake body and soul on the message.
7. The messenger should have a devotional life.
8. The messenger should have a reputation of humility.
9. The messenger should have the conviction of an exclamation mark and not a question mark.
10. The messenger should have a sense of mission.



The Rev. Frank Harrison sponsored the Vivian B. Harrison Lecture. L to R. Ashley Summerlin, Dr. Alvin Reid, Frank Harrison. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)



Numerous FWB ministers attended the Lecture at Rodgers Chapel, Mount Olive College. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)



Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hunt attended the lecture. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)



Attending were Ray Wells (left), Brad Williamson, Dr. Alvin Reid, Dr. David Hines, Rev. Michael G. Warning. (Photo by Pepper Worthington)

A Poem

*Haunt the heart until no corner hides
the panting soul.
Haunt the mind until no cell rest from
quest.
Haunt the eye until beauty only lives in
the glow of faith.
Haunt the ear until all sound echoes
God's Presence.
Haunt the fingers until the hands touch
another and another and another.
Haunt the feet until footsteps carry the
self into the house of one in need.
Haunt the tears until all moments free
the imprisoned.
Haunt the repetition of choice until
choice becomes the will of Christ.*

Pepper Worthington

Camp Vandemere Summer Schedule for 1996

April 13

Clean Up Day

May 31 – June 1

State Layman's League Spiritual
Life Retreat

June 17 – 21

Women's Week
Audrey Quinn, Director
Phone: (919) 638-6406
461 Wintergreen Road
Cove City, NC 28524

June 24 – 28

Kevin Jackson, Director
Phone: (910) 248-3936
969 NC 241
Pink Hill, NC 28572

July 8 – 12

Eva Mae Clark, Director
Phone: (919) 637-5347
485 Half Moon Road
New Bern, NC 28560

July 15 – 19

Stanley Buck, Director
Phone: (919) 823-3964
3200 Western Blvd.
Tarboro, NC 27864

July 22-26

Joe Radcliff, Director
Phone: (919) 244-0207
6280 US Hwy. 17 N
Vanceboro, NC 28586

July 29 – August 2

Jason Modlin, Director
Phone: (919) 658-7170
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

August 5 – 9

David Vesper, Director
Phone: (919) 726-3051
1866 Highway 24 East
Newport, NC 28570

Camp Vandemere would like to extend a special invitation to our people to attend one of the weeks scheduled for this summer. Or you may wish to have a Youth Group, Church or Family Group to spend the weekend for a retreat. Our facilities are excellent for relaxation, fishing, crabbing or boating.

The fees for a week during a scheduled camp is \$60.00. Each director may charge an activity fee, depending on his or her own plans.

A week of camp begins at 10:00 am on Monday and closes by 10:00 am on Friday.

If you visit for a day and desire to eat at the camp during a week of camp activities, Breakfast is \$3.00, Lunch is \$3.50, and Supper is \$4.00.

We now have a Family Sleeping Lodge for more privacy and comfort. The rates are \$25.00 per night.

Also, we have Mobile or Tent Camper spaces with water and electricity and dump station privilege. The rates are \$8.00 per unit.

Each camper is responsible for his own linens, towels, and personal toiletry articles.

Some directors may wish to have off-campus trips. The camp will not be responsible for off-campus meals.

Your prayerful and financial support is encouraged. Donations may be sent to: Mrs. Judy Kennedy, 933N NC 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

The Application for Camp Vandemere is on page 28.

"Sow To Grow Your Best!"

by Rev. Joe Ratcliff

I guess when you think about ministry, you have to think about sowing and harvesting. Whether, it is in a home, a church, a community, a group, or at a camp, the principle of sowing and harvesting still holds true. The Bible plainly says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for ~~whatsoever~~ a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). God's Word also says, "... He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

These truth's, admittedly, apply to every aspect of our lives, but I believe they especially apply to our work with young people.

Children demand a lot of us all. Whether parents, pastors, or teachers, they expect the best we have to offer.

Children, like adults, fall into the trap of things. They feel like they have to have certain "things" to be happy. But if you really search deep inside of the heart of a child, the "things" that matter most are acceptance and love.

A person, a family, a group, or an institution that understands this and acts accordingly and plants a seed in that child's life that can grow into a bountiful harvest.

Acceptance and love can not come without responsibility and accountability from all concerned. But they will not come without a lot of preparation and hard work.

As a director at Vandemere, and as a counselor for many years at other camps, I have discovered an almost "magical" (for lack of better words) atmosphere where acceptance and love can grow. Camp is a place where the soil of a young person's heart grows mellow. Most of the youth that attend camp arrive not really knowing what to expect. What they find is a chance at starting over. For the most part, the camper knows very little about the others there, and they know very little about him/her. There are not preconceived notions or expectations. They are accepted for who they are. They will be listened to, loved, watched over, and taught

without bias. The friendships are special because they are fresh. The teaching is special because its just the truth and not judgmental on the part of the teacher. The love is genuine because its not earned, but just given. Its a whole different world! If you haven't been to camp, you might not understand, but if you have, you do!

That's why camp is a place where seed can be planted. There is a special mellowing of the ground and a special care by the planters that can't exist anywhere else. And there's a chance to get away from peer pressures and get close to God.

Many children come to Christ through Christian camps. We had one soul saved at our camp this summer, but I had the privilege to baptize two young men recently that I know had the seeds of faith planted at camp this year. If you were saved at a Christian camp, you understand what that means.

But there is another aspect of the sowing and harvesting that we must consider. Every Christian must be willing to sow a portion of their talents, energies, time, finances into our camps so the harvest of these precious souls may continue.

Personally, I thank God for those that had a vision to find Camp Vandemere, and other Christian camps. They understand what a special place and a wonderful opportunity camp time is. I thank God for those who have kept the vision alive through giving, for those that understand that the job won't be completed until Christ receives the final harvest, for giving me the opportunity to be a director at Vandemere, and for allowing me to meet many of those special people that have kept the vision of Vandemere alive through the years.

But if this wonderful place of acceptance and love is to continue we all have to be willing to sow. If we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly. Where our youth are concerned we cannot afford to sow sparingly. The devil is putting a majority of our resources behind his program to attack our youth. We need to be willing to put in a majority of our resources to shield, prepare, and grow the church of tomorrow — our young people.

Vandemere needs your help. Your gift

is an investment in the life of a child. Plant a seed, then be ready to watch it grow! But please - please don't set back and expect others to do all the work! Join in the harvest! Make an effort to work with your young people at church, get them involved in a Christian camp, work with your own kids at home. You will reap, so ~~make sure you sow your best!~~

Clean Up Day

Another important event is our Clean-Up Day. It is scheduled for April 13 beginning at 9:30 am. We need your help, we would like to have the camp looking nice for the coming season. We invite you to come, bring your rakes, shovels, wheel barrows, weed eaters, lawn mowers and anything else you feel you can use to help clean up.

Ladies, don't forget we need your help. The kitchen, dining hall, and dormitory needs your special touch. You will need to bring cleaning supplies such as 409, scrub rags, and other items to help with this type of cleaning. Last year we had a very good response to our clean-up day and we hope to have even more to join us this year. A cook out is planned for those who come and help us. This will be the Camp's treat and our way of saying Thank you!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matthew 5:16.

Reservations

It's not too early to start planning your trip to Camp Vandemere for this year. Several groups have already made their reservations. Don't keep putting it off, time has a way of slipping away, we wouldn't want you to miss coming to Camp Vandemere. If you would like to come with just your family, we can accommodate you. We have a very nice family lodge that you can use for a week-end or for an entire week. We hope to have some special prices for you this year. For reservations please contact our General Manager — Rev. Ralph Sumner, 517 Sumner Rd., Pink Hill, NC 28572, Phone 919-298-5885

Right from *Wrong*

1996 Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists May 17-19, 1996 Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 17

- 5:00 pm • Registration, College Hall
- 7:15 pm • Welcome — Lee Buck, Youth Convention President
- Words with Wes
- 7:30 pm • Talent Explosion, College Hall
- 9:30 pm • **Right from Wrong**
YFA — Fine Arts Center, AFC — Murphy Center, Cherubs
— Hart Lounge
- 11:30 pm • Good Night! All in their rooms.

Saturday, May 18

- 7:30 — 8:30 • Breakfast, Murphy Regional Center
- 8:00 am • Registration for new arrivals, College Hall
- 8:30 am • General Assembly, College Hall (everyone)
 - Bible Bowl Exhibit, College Hall
 - Introduction and Campaigning
 - Voting (polls open until 12:00)
- 10:00 am • **Right from Wrong**
 - Lesson Presentation, Herderson Building Room 209
 - Public Speaking, Rodgers Chapel
- 11:00 am • League Covention meeting, Rodgers Chapel
- 11:00 — 1:00 • Exploring Christian ministries
- 11:30 — 1:00 • Lunch, Murphy Regional Center
- 1:15 pm • Business Session
 - Old & New Business • Installation of Officers
- 2:00 pm • **Right from Wrong**
 - League meeting, Chapel
- 3:30 — 5:30 • Recreation/Free Time
 - Exploring Christian ministries (continued)
- 6:00 pm • Banquet and Awards Program (no shorts)
- 8:00 pm • Celebration!
- 11:00 pm • Good Night! All in their rooms.

Sunday, May 19

- 8:00 — 9:00 • Breakfast, Murphy Center
- 9:15 am • **Right from Wrong**
- 10:30 am • Morning Worship, Rodgers Chapel
- 12:00 pm • Cleaning and check-out

- The State Project is new mattresses for the residence halls of Mount Olive College. Please give as much as you can, however, \$150 per church will help in meeting our goal. Money should be sent to : Martha Parsons 2317 Bayside Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306-8803, 910-486-4636.
- Complete the registration form to the right no later than May 1st.
- Rooms will be assigned in the order that registration forms are received.
- Guests will need to bring their own pillows, blankets, linens, bath cloths, towels, soap, casual and dress clothes, beach towel, athletic equipment, money for meals and snacks, Bible, notebook, and pen or pencil.

**Please Return This Portion
By May 1, 1996**

Church _____

District _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Registration Fee is \$25 per church
(after May 1st, \$35) *

Total number of youth/adults lodging overnight:

Friday	No.	Subtotal
Male Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Female Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Saturday		
Male Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Males (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Female Leaders	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (12 & under)	_____ x \$8=	_____
Females (13 & up)	_____ x \$8=	_____

Total Lodging _____

* Registration Fee (per church) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

* All Registration Forms and Fees should be
sent by May 1st to:
Judy Jones
Route 3, Box 650-B
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-6293

for your **FYI** information





Spring Revival

Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church

Brother Earl Glenn, pastor of Daniels Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson NC, will conduct revival service at Smith's New Home April 3-5. Each service will feature preaching, music, and fellowship. Services will begin at 7:30 pm.

Pastor Needed

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church is in need of a pastor. If you are interested, please write:
William Upton
5684 U.S. Hwy. 33 East, Chocowinity, NC 27817
919-946-2869 after 7:30 pm

Pastor Available

Rev. Dr. Thomas McParrish
609 Lee Ave., Wadesboro, NC 28170
704-694-9432

Study Course Offered

The Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention will have a study course, April 15, 1996 — 7:30 pm at Yelverton Grove Church, east of Smithfield.

Mrs. Dianne Riley will be speaking on "Youth" Stewardship.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Hymnals Needed

Faith Free Will Baptist Church would like to have some old Free Will Baptist Hymnals that are in good condition. If any one has any, that are not being used, and would like to sell them or donate them, please contact Lorraine Leonard at 209 Wood Haven Drive, Castle Hayne, North Carolina or call collect 910-675-0543.



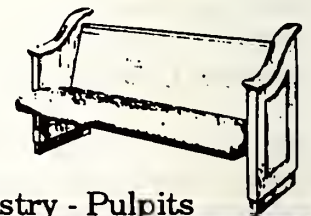
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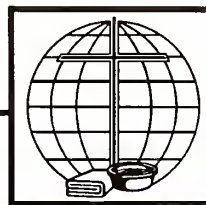
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Woman's Day Observed at Wilson First Free Will Baptist Church

The Woman's auxiliary of First FWB Church, Wilson, NC was in charge of the morning worship service on February 18, 1996. The annual event is held to honor and present a special member with a Life Award Membership for outstanding achievements in her church and life of Christian love and devotion. Members of the auxiliary were in charge of all activities for the service. President, Linda Davis made a special presentation to the Pastor of the church, the Rev. Wayne King, of \$500.00 to be marked for the building fund. This money was raised by selling a quilt donated to the auxiliary by Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Sullivan. The choir was made up of Auxiliary members and was directed by Deborah King. All of the people on the program were auxiliary members including the ushers. The morning message was delivered by Jean Ackiss, an auxiliary member from Spring Hill Church. She has been in charge of Church Support for Mount Olive College since 1965. Her message was entitled, "Gods Abundance For The Committed Believer."

The Life Award Presentation was made by President, Linda Davis, who read Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strenghtenth me." She said this Scripture reminded her of the woman chosen to receive the Life Award. Eleanor Sullivan was the recipient of the award and was praised highly for her work in the church, Sunday school, and Youth groups. She is an example for everyone of Christ living in a persons life, shinning through for all the world to see. She is a woman of great compassion and love to her family, community, and her local church as well as working into the District and State level of the Denominational enterprises. A few of the accomplishments are listed here.

She has been active in Woman's Auxiliary since joining in 1962. She served as President in '72 and '73. Presently she is Youth Chairman, an office she has held since 1981. She works wherever needed, holding various positions in the Woman's auxiliary and circles.

On the state level she has served as Youth Chairman, and written programs for the Woman's Auxiliary DEVOTION.

In other areas of our church she is a member of the Chancel Choir, Sunday school and Bible school teacher, and a leader in the Pioneer Groups.

In our city, she is an advocate of the Pregnancy Crisis Center.

She is married to Charles. They have three children, Reneé, Amanda, and Eric; and two grandchildren, Hannah and Sullivan.

In appreciation and in love, the Woman's Auxiliary presents this Life Award to Eleanor Sullivan.



Installation of Officers Service

The Woman's Auxiliary of Kenly FWB Church held their installation of officers service in the sanctuary of the church on Sunday, January 21, 1996 as a part of the morning worship service.

The Woman's Auxiliary emblem was used on the communion table along with the Bible and the Auxiliary colors of silver, royal blue and Carolina blue used in the flower arrangement.

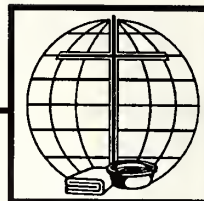
The installation program in the 1996 Devotion was used by Mrs. Miriam Lamm, installing officer. As each officer was read her particular duties, she was given a piece of fruit, and when she accepted the "challenge," she placed her fruit in the basket provided. (The fruit was later divided and taken to three shut-ins).

Attendance at the Auxiliary meeting on January 23, 1996 was very good and we were delighted to add several new members.

It is our hope that this is the beginning of a "fruitful" year in 1996 as "Women Working Together in Christian Service."

1996 LEAGUE Convention
May 18, 1996
11:00 am and 2:00 pm
Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, NC
Rodgers Chapel

This year the League Convention will feature the musical "TRUTH WORKS." We will also have the excitement of our SWORD DRILL competition and the enjoyment of worshipping with Christian friends.



Pee Dee Association OFWB Youth Officers for the 1996 Year



L to R Back Row: President, Amy Whitt, Cypress Creek; Vice-President, Michael Dowless, White Oak; Secretary, Kammy Cribb, Beaverdam; Treasurer, Jennifer Taylor, Cypress Creek; and Missions, Sharon Simmons, Beaverdam. L to R Front Row: Reporter, Marc McPherson, Beaverdam; Song Leader, Henry Berry, Charity Mission; Denominational Enterprises, Jeff Godwin, Beaverdam. Not Pictured Benevolence Chair, Jennifer Edwards, Oak Grove.

Stony Hill FWB Church Welcomes a New Pastor Rev. Lewis J. Forsythe

The Rev. Lewis J. Forsythe attended Soundviews Bible Institute, obtaining 62 credit hours to receive his Bachelor of Theology. He was licensed in 1991 by Holly Springs FWB, Newport, NC. While licensed, he preached nearly every Sunday at various churches in NC filling in for vacationing or ill pastors. He was ordained on October 20, 1994 at the Eastern Conference in Beulaville. From November 1994 until November 1995, he pastored Free Union FWB, Sea Level, NC, at which time he resigned to accept the pastorate at Stony Hill FWB Church.

He and his wife, Shirley, have four sons; Jacob, who still lives at home, Ken, Bob, and Chris as well as three grandsons.

They are excited about their work at Stony Hill FWB, and "are looking forward to seeing what great things the Lord is going to do."

The Rev. Forsythe invites you to join us on Sunday morning "at the greatest church in the Free Will Baptist Denomination."



Cape Fear Auxiliary Convention Lee's Chapel FWB Church April 10, 1996

Theme: "My Grace is Sufficient for Thee"

Scripture: "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" II Cor. 12:9.

Morning Session

- 9:30 Registration
10:00 Hymn "Grace Greater Than Our Sins"
Devotion Linda Baker
Welcome Host Church
Response Pearl Coats
Greetings Claudette Lane, President

Business Session

- Hymn "Just When I Need Him Most"
Report of Denominational Ministries ... Rev. Scott Sowers
Executive Administrator
Foreign Missions • Home Mission
Retirement Homes • Children's Home
Mount Olive College • FWB Press • Cragmont • Youth

Morning Worship

- 11:15 Hymn "Amazing Grace"
Offering
Special Music Host Church
Convention Message Rev. Jeff Scarborough
Pastor, Palmer Memorial
Hymn "He Lifted Me"

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 Hymn "The Cross Is Not Greater Than His Grace"
Memorial Service Lucille Coats
1:20 Miscellaneous Business
Hymn "God Will Take Care of You"
2:00 Adjournment

The Grace of God

- G God's Eternal Gift
R Riches That We Find
A Atoning One
C Christ Who Paid the Price
E Expense of God
What is Grace?
God's Riches At Christ's Expense



HOPE

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens

"And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee" (Psalm 39:7).

For some reason, this feature of "Golden Years" wants to focus on hope. During recent weeks I began the development of several themes for this article, but like a plant emerging from the soil, the word "hope" took root in my thinking and would not turn loose. It is in response to this inward constraint that I venture to share with you some intimate thoughts on the place of hope in our daily lives.

When Life Tumbles In, Then What?

Let us acknowledge up front that our senior years may not be the easiest and most secure period of our lives. Indeed, these years can confront us with problems even more complex and difficult than those of earlier years:

- our bodies age and health restraints may increasingly limit our activities;
- we may become responsible for the care of an aged, disabled or dependent member of our family and our whole lifestyle has to be altered;
- disruptions in family life may occur through divorce or other broken relationships;
- our employment status can change through disability, layoffs or retirement and not only may our financial security be in jeopardy but our feeling of self-worth can be wounded;
- we can be diagnosed with a life-threatening disease or suffer an injury from which there is no complete recovery;
- during our youth and middle years, a full decade — or possibly even two or three decades — might pass without a death in our immediate family, but then in a short span of time we can lose our father, mother, husband or wife, brother, sister or even a child and suddenly feel thrust into a cold and lonely world;
- because of declining health, we may have to leave our home and move into the new environment of an apartment or a group-living facility; or
- our ability to make major decisions may decline and increasingly our lives can become impacted

with decisions made by others, causing us to feel threatened by our sense of "independence" changing to "dependence."

When life tumbles in, we are wont to ask, "Is anything left worth living for?"

"I Will Always Have Hope," (Psalm 71:14 NIV).

Although we would not choose the valleys and painful experiences life brings to us, we cannot give up just because adversity comes our way. To do so, would be to miss the purpose of our pilgrimage on earth. There are simply times in life when we have to hope against hope.

In 1984, Greg Anderson, who later wrote the international bestseller, *The Cancer Conqueror*, was told by his surgeon that he had thirty days to live. Instead of giving up he held on to hope, changed his life and now twelve years later is chairman of the American Wellness Project. His newest book, *The 22 (Non Negotiable) Laws of Wellness*, is rewarding reading for anyone who might be finding the burdens of life heavier than they can carry.

God never promised us that life would be easy; but He did promise us that through Him we can be victorious. I believe this victory is won so much by escaping problems as by overcoming them.

If God made everything fit our comfort and convenience our lives would be little and our world would be small. If the only things we ever achieved in life were those we could do in our own wisdom and by our own strength, we would accomplish very little. Great hope cannot be put into a small soul, but when our hope is in God it transcends the bleak moments of the present by lifting us into the presence of Him who can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

My experience leads me to believe that God has a message for us through each season of the year. Spring is to the human heart what it is to nature; it is God's message of hope. The long night of winter has ended, and all around us life is surging forward. We see it in the blooming of the flowers and the foliage on the trees; we see it in God's good earth as the soil is plowed and the seeds for another crop are planted, but most of all, we feel it in our hearts. The

future calls and as long as we have hope, the adversities of life cannot stop us — they can only refine us.

As Alexander Pope declared, "Hope springs eternal in the human heart." Hope is the lifeline to perseverance; as long as we have hope, we never give up. The human heart can endure any experience as long as that experience has meaning and we have hope for something better.

I believe that hope can help to turn our "Senior Years" into "Golden Years" by lifting us beyond our-

selves to the ultimate Power of the universe.

When things will not come together for us; when, if anything can go wrong, it does; when the tide appears to be running out and the sand under our feet is shifting; indeed, when life tumbles in, hope can be the bottom upon which our feet come to rest.

"Why are thou cast down, O my soul? and why are thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God:...And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee" (Psalms 42:11a and 39:7).

APPLICATION FOR CAMP VANDEMERE

Fill out completely and mail to Director in charge of the week you prefer, along with a \$10.00 deposit (non-refundable). The remainder will be due upon arrival at camp.

Name of Camper _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday _____ Sex _____ Grade Completed _____

Week of Camp Desired _____ Director _____

I give my permission for my child to participate in all activities at camp except those noted below:

Signed _____
(Parent's or Guardian's Permission)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, the undersigned am the () parent or () legal guardian of _____ and hereby authorize Camp Vandemere, Inc., in case of an emergency, to take my child to the doctor or hospital for treatment.

My signature will further authorize the hospital or licensed doctor to administer treatment in case of an emergency.

Signature

(It is understood that I will be contacted by telephone if at all possible.)

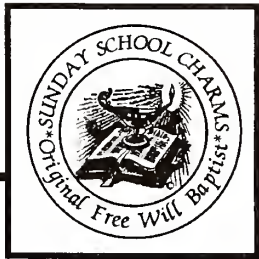
Phone number where I can be reached _____

Has your child had a tetanus shot? _____ When? _____

Is your child allergic to penicillin? _____ Other drugs? _____

Bee stings, poison ivy, poison oak, etc? _____

Other allergies? _____



Sunday School Extravaganza

The Sunday School Extravaganza held March 2, 1996 at Everett Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church was a great success. This was evidenced by the wonderful puppet show by some participants who had not done puppetry before. Further evidence of success was what we, the Sunday School Board learned from the about 450 participants from 70 different churches supported by about 40 of their ministers, that, more hands-on learning work shops are wanted and people want to know where they can get resource materials.

The Sunday School Board is in the process of setting up a Learning Resource center at the Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Ayden. These resources will be available to any Sunday school who wishes to borrow them. Sunday schools may obtain our Resource Catalogue by writing to the OFWB Sunday School Board, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513-0039.

This is not all the companies with good quality merchandise. We hope to continue "focusing on the good and building on it."

This month help your Sunday school class experience the creation of God by going on a nature hike. Look for different types of flowers, trees, birds, and everything else God made good.

Help your Sunday school class share the love of God with others. One way to do this is go to a nursing home or rest home and sing old favorite hymns.

For your Sunday school needs visit your local Bible and Bookstores:

Ayden Bible and Bookstore - Free Will Baptist Press
811 North Lee Street, Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-6128 or 1-800-849-3927

Kinston Bible and Bookstore
123 North Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501
919-527-2843

New Bern Bible and Bookstore
1232 South Glenburnie Road - Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern, NC 28562
919-638-6193

Wilson Bible and Bookstore
2101 South Tarboro Street - Regency Plaza, Wilson, NC 27893
919-243-4982

Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



Lay Ministry

Sometimes I think that Satan must be laughing as he observes the *average* church at work. The congregation gathers on Sunday morning to be "fed." The crowd waits "anxiously" for the appearance of *the pastor*. He encourages a little "audience" participation as *he* leads the congregants in singing; *he* prays; and then *he* invites participation as the ushers collect the offering. Then the "real show" begins, as *the pastor* delivers his sermon. *He* (yes, the pastor) invites people to respond as they come to *him* for counsel or to share their new commitment. Finally, the congregation prepares to leave by greeting *the minister* at the door.

The really sad part--the part Satan must enjoy the most--happens when the people leave the church building. Worship having ended, it is time for the people of God to depart to serve. Instead, most of the congregation leaves, only to await the next spiritual meal; and the pastor is expected to do the work of ministry. I am sure that Satan is pleased to know that instead of a congregation departing to serve, there is just one person who will be working--the pastor.

This is not the way that Jesus intended for His church to operate! The church that allows the pastor to carry the load will never be effective. As in the case of Moses, recorded in Exodus 18:13-26, the pastor and the people both will only grow weary.

And it came to pass on the morrow that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he

said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? And Moses said unto his father

*Satan must be laughing as
he observes the average
church at work.*

in law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God: When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee: thou art not able to perform it thyself alone... (Exodus 18:13-18).

I believe that many pastors and congregations are tired because of this inappropriate behavior. This behavior can cause frustration and will almost always render the church ineffective as she tries to accomplish her mission. We need to return to the model that Jesus established. The pastor should equip the members of the congregation to do the work of ministry.

While many are eager, this pattern is ingrained in most of us; it is second nature. If we are to change, we will have to be intentional. It is important that we take the time to plan the changes and then work the plan. Attitude adjustments must precede the actual change(s). The people and the pastor must both be trained and equipped for their new roles.

A good starting point will be the Lay

Ministry Seminar to be held at First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, on Saturday April 27. It is very important that both the pastor and lay leadership attend and participate together. You will be encouraged and given specific guidelines in making ministry the work of the whole church!

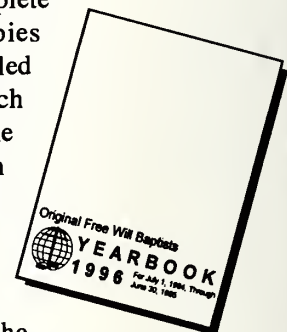
Mark this date on your calendars and plan now to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

Yearbooks

The 1996 *Yearbook* is complete and two copies have been mailed to each church clerk, and one copy has been mailed to each minister that registered at the 1995

Session of the Convention. Copies are available from the Headquarters at the cost of \$10 each. Church clerks and ministers who registered for the Convention should notify the Headquarters if they did not receive their copies. (The Headquarters can be contacted by phoning [919] 746-4963; or at the following address: Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.)

While every effort is made to provide an error-free publication, there are errors. Please send us in writing any corrections and we will publish them in *The Promoter*. We depend on sources at the local, conference, and Convention levels to supply us with accurate information. It should also be remembered that the Convention is constantly changing. Please let us know about changes.



Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

Have you ever been faced with a challenge that makes you feel like there is no end in sight?

Recently, I volunteered to help one of my close friends on a project she was undertaking. And of course as most good friends do, she accepted.

After I realized what was going to be involved, I almost wished I had not accepted. God always gives us a reason for doing what we do. I began to think about Easter and my attitude towards this venture. Immediately, my opinion changed.

What if Jesus had taken the same attitude that I had toward helping my friend? What if He did not want to go to the Cross as God had told Him to do?

We, as Christians, would be in the same boat as my friend, looking for someone to help, and someone to depend on.

Be thankful that Jesus volunteered to go to the Cross! Happy Easter!

In His Service,

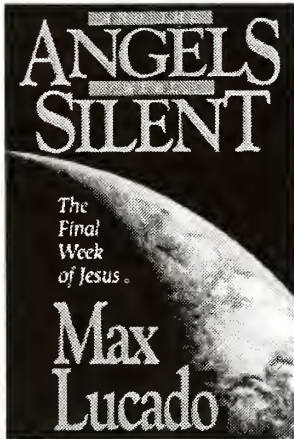
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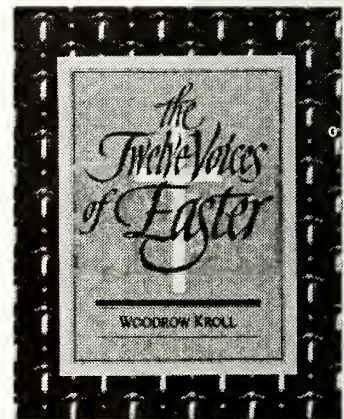
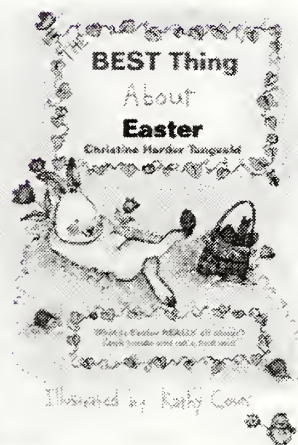
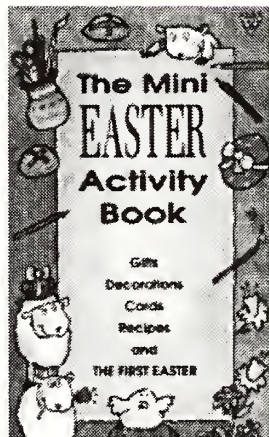
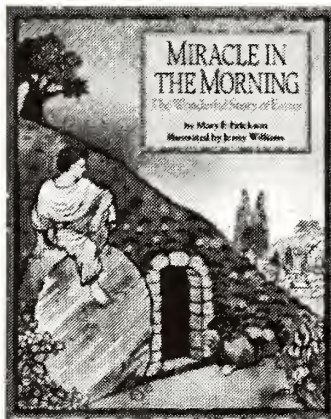
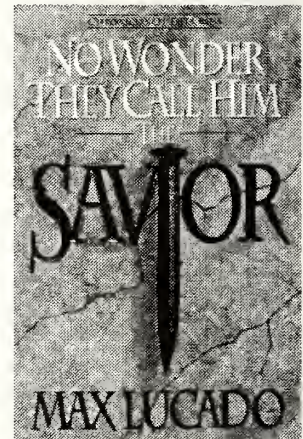
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Easter Reading For All Ages



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The Free Will Baptist

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The Free Will Baptist

May 1996



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May • Volume 113 • Number 5

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NEXT MONTH

Cragmont
Month

May is
Children's Home
Month

The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and co-operation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

All subscriptions are payable in advance: one year, \$10.07; two years, \$18.55; four years, \$36.04 (including sales tax for North Carolina residents); residents of other states, \$9.50, \$17.50, and \$34, respectively (plus sales tax where it applies). **Every-Family Plan:** A 25 percent discount given when local churches send *The Free Will Baptist* to the home of every member; names and addresses to be provided by churches. Churches are billed quarterly. **Bundle Plan:** Lots of 25 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these. A 50 percent discount is offered under this plan.

Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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The Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Mission Statement

Children are our most valued resource. Our Home is dedicated to the ministry of returning children to a family by providing for children's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. This is accomplished in a nurturing environment with professional care. Since 1920, the Children's Home has been a ministry for children.

We are currently serving 60 children, 54 on the main campus in Middlesex and 6 children at Genesis house Emergency Shelter in Wilson. We continue to meet their basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. But, the needs of the children we serve go far beyond the basics to include medical and special education. Many of these services are offered on our campus through services like Preparation for Adult Living, family clarification, tutorial program, individual and group counseling. Our staff is dedicated to children and providing them with a nurturing environment while meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Pray for the children we serve and our ministry during the month of May. Your prayers and financial support offer the foundation that our children depend on.

The Alumni Committee continues to plan this year's Homecoming events.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 14, 1996

ALUMNI
HOMECOMING

NOVEMBER 23, 1996

FRIENDS OF
CHILDREN DAY

*May Is
Children's Home Month*

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home
is pleased to announce the
Alumni Association's
50th Homecoming

Reunion on
July 14, 1996

The Alumni Association was established in 1946. The association is made up of nearly 1,000 children that grew up at the Children's Home between 1920 and the early 1980s

The Alumni hope you will join them at this year's Homecoming. All Free Will Baptist churches that were sponsors are especially invited to attend and meet that child your church sponsored.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Richard Flint, CSP
Professional Motivational Speaker

Schedule of Events

**Worship Service in
Memorial Chapel
Lunch in Center
of Campus
Afternoon Activities**



The Preamble of the Constitution of the Alumni Association

We, the former children and employees of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, in order to promote the general welfare of the children at the home, to build closer relationships among ourselves, and to maintain a harmonious and working relationship with the Board of Directors of the Home, do establish this constitution for the Alumni Association of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Children Are Dreaming

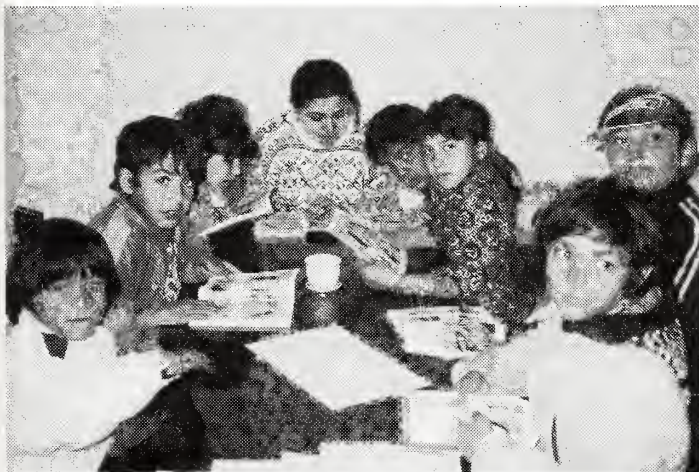
by Willem van der Plas

The Lord has given us forty children to take care of. Many of them have only one parent. Our home is a kind of haven to them. They come to us with their sorrows, their sadness, their joys, their happiness, and with questions. They form a strong family together. They learn to read and write. They study the Scriptures and learn about Jesus their Saviour. Yesterday, six of them came to our office. One of them, Gulbeas, was very excited and she said to Tezdjan, "Sister, I had a dream about you last night. We were all in the classroom, and you had a lot of gold in your hand. You gave all of us a golden ring and a set of golden earrings. What does this mean to you?" (Gypsies always search for meaning in their dreams.) Tezdjan received the wisdom to explain the dream and she replied, "I have taught you a lot of things about God and about Jesus. Gold is the symbol of pureness and cleanness. I told you how you can be clean for God. The ring on your hand means that you must work the good works in Love to God. The golden earrings mean that you have heard the Good News of Salvation. You must obey the Word of God and live in the way He wants you to live."

After this dream they shared another one, told to them by Ajer that morning. Ajer is one of the teenage girls who

meets regularly with the youth in our place. She is 15 years old. The dream scared her and that is why she shared it with the younger girls. She told them that Jesus came in her dream and that He asked her, "Do you love me, do you believe in me? I know that you don't know how to pray, how to keep yourself clean and pure." She was very afraid and admitted that she doesn't know how to pray. The younger girls prayed with her, and they shared their faith in the Lord Jesus with her. Tezdjan said to them, "You are very blessed. This is the first place where you can learn and can worship and you are the first children who were able to come here. The Lord has prepared this place for you." They all reacted so happy and glad. They praised the Lord for the people who make it possible that they can come together.

The Lord is blessing these children with enthusiasm and wisdom, which made many of the adults wonder. They are young and pure witnesses of Salvation. They experience the joy to be the Lord's children. They know that you make it possible that their lives now have new values beyond the borders of our comprehension. Praise be to His Name forever!



North District Conference '96

by Dario S. Basingil

The Annual North District Conference was held February 22-23, 1996 at Bantulan, Taytay Palawan. This place is located along the seashore, approximately fifteen kilometers

from the town proper of Taytay, Palawan.

The following churches participated in the Conference:
(1) Centro Taytay FWB Church, San Lorenzo, Taytay

Northern District Conference '96 Cont...

Palawan, under the supervision of Pastor Pio dela Rosa; (2) Patmos FWB Church, Icadambanua, Pastor Juanito Dulce; (3) Bethel FWB Church, Calawag, Pastor Teddy Martinez; (4) Charity FWB Church, Itangil, Pastor Arturo Aspa and (5) Pamangtan FWB Church, Calawag, Pastor Ernesto Tabanao.

The theme for the Conference was "Proclaim Christ." This was divided into the following lectures: Pastor Teddy Martinez, "The Qualifications of the Church Planters"; Pastor Juanito Dulce, "God's Plan of the Ages"; Pastor Pio dela Rosa, "Spiritual Warfare and Church Growth." The Rev. Dario Basingil, of the Missions Department, shared the following:

First: The Pastor

- a) his personal life
- b) his private ministry
- c) his public ministry
- d) his motives
- e) his responsibilities

Second: Repossessing His Time

- a) in his study
- b) in personal and family
- c) in prayer
- d) in social
- e) in visitation
- f) in teaching and evangelism
- g) in local church
- h) in denomination
- i) in community
- j) and other outside relationships



This is a very profitable and informative Conference. Please continue to pray for the work in the Philippines; the pastors, workers, teachers, believers, but most of all pray for the unsaved. May God give us the boldness to go out and win the lost at any cost!

WORSHIPING AT SAN LORENZO, TAYTAY, PHILIPPINES

by Rosana Briones

After the Annual North District Conference, we attended a Worship Service at San Lorenzo, Taytay Palawan. The Rev. Dario Basingil was the speaker. (The Rev. Pio dela Rosa is the pastor). The church is at the top of a small mountain. Although this building is not yet finished, it is not a hindrance to those who attend there.

The Rev. dela Rosa answered God's call to start a work in this part of the Philippines. The Lord has honored his obedience. There are now thirty worshipers who attend the services each week. They have also been faithful in helping support the church in many ways.

God is faithful in providing the needs of His children. Please remember to pray for this group of believers.

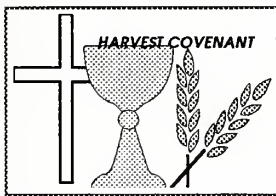


The Rev. Dario Basingil speaking in the worship service at San Lorenzo.

H. Peyton Lee Is Home Missions and Evangelism's Newest Board Member.



Mr. H. Peyton Lee was born in the Plainview Community of Sampson County and grew up there. His family attended Robert's Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church in a neighboring community and it was there that Peyton first became active in the Church. Following his marriage, in May of 1961, he decided that he and his wife, Betty, should be in the same church, so in 1962, he moved his membership to Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church. Soon thereafter he became Choir Director, a position which he still fills. In addition to being Choir Director, he has served his Church in many positions and is currently a deacon. Over the years he has frequently served his denomination outside the local church. Just a few years ago he was on the "Convention" Executive Committee from the Cape Fear Conference. Recently, brother Peyton retired, after twenty-nine years as an insurance agent, serving much of Sampson and Cumberland counties from the office in Fayetteville. Peyton is not planning to stop, but continue to serve his Church and community to the best of his ability. At Home Missions and Evangelism he will be filling the unexpired term of the Reverend T. C. Farmer on the Board of Directors and we are pleased to have him on the team.



Harvest Covenant is a new program designed to help the small or struggling church. It has been designed in response to the concern expressed, to Home Missions and Evangelism, by a number of our people. The program has three stages or phases depending on the level of need of the local church. It can be made available only by the proper invitation from the local church authorized in a regular or duly called business session.

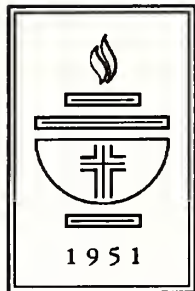
Home Missions and Evangelism is pleased to announce that the Reverend Al Markuson will be the Program Director for the Harvest Covenant Program. However, all arrangements should be made through the office of Home Missions and Evangelism at (919) 746-4963, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513-0039. It is hoped that this program will be able to help several of our churches find their way in the ministry of our denomination and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord!

Join Charity Mission/Church in Whiteville in their praise of the Lord for their new growth. They have received six new members in the last three months, under the leadership of their new Director/Pastor the Reverend Freddie Edwards.



HAPPY Mother's Day



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Tamra Loftin — On the Move!

by Mike Nason

"An object in motion will remain in motion unless acted upon by an outside force." So says Sir Isaac Newton's first law of mechanics...with a small measure of editorial license added. Newton's was describing a physical law of nature. Amazingly, the law seems to describe certain human beings, and in particular, one Tamra Loftin.

Tamra is a study of perpetual motion, or as close as nature allows. Mother, wife, full-time student, nurse, Army brat, former Navy lieutenant, church organist, Sunday school teacher, sports nut, extrovert citizen of the world, mover and shaker — get the idea.

When you talk with Tamra, you feel energy in the room that wasn't there a moment before she walked in. This is a woman with a present, a past, and a future.

The Present

Tamra Loftin is finishing her junior year at Mount Olive College. Her major is business administration. A full-time student, she commutes daily from Snow Hill to Mount Olive — a distance of 38 miles.

In Snow Hill, Tamra is a wife and a mom. Jake, her husband, works in Greenville, and Christopher, her 11-year-old son, is in the 6th grade at Greene County Middle School. Weekdays start at 6:30 am in the Loftin household as each one heads off in a different direction. Juggling schedules, home duties and school is a trick, but Tamra seems to do it gracefully and said she gets plenty of help.

On Sundays, Tamra plays the organ and is a Sunday school teacher for 10–12 year-olds at Harrell's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Snow Hill. Tamra's folks are also active in the church. Mr. Elmer Harrell is a deacon and president of the North Carolina Layman's League, and Mrs. Nan Harrell is president of the church's woman's auxiliary.

The Past

Although Snow Hill is home, Elmer Harrell was career Army. When a soldier serves, so too does the family. In this regard, Tamra, and older brother Greg moved with their parents to postings in Virginia, Japan, Kentucky, and Texas. After 22 years of active duty, her dad retired following a tour of duty at Fort Bragg. The nomadic life-style agreed with Tamra.

"I like to move frequently—every three to five years," Tamra said, "I love change and travel. I find it stimulating." And move she does.

In 1977, Tamra entered Lenoir Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1980 as a diploma Registered Nurse. After a stint as a staff nurse, she attended East Carolina University in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Tamra then married and had a baby — Christopher.

After being at home for two years, Tamra returned to work — part-time at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Thinking she might want to teach, Tamra went back to school, this time to Pitt Community College earning an associate degree in education.

Finding herself single after a divorce, Tamra joined the Navy in 1990. As a nurse she entered with the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade). After officer training in Newport, RI, Tamra was assigned to the hospital at Camp Lejeune where she served as staff nurse and then charge nurse. Her parents helped out with Christopher when she had to be away. In 1994, she was sent to Camp Pendleton near San Diego, California, for possible deployment to Bosnia. It never materialized. Because of a back problem, Tamra was placed on the temporarily disabled retired list and returned to civilian life.

Because of her back injury, Tamra said that she now had to figure out how to use her brain rather than her physical strength.

The Future

"My plan is to combine my knowledge of nursing with a degree in business for a career in business or marketing in the expanding healthcare industry," Tamra said. She's hoping that with her experience, she will be an attractive candidate for employment with a pharmaceutical company, an insurance company, a healthcare provider, or possibly in hospital administration.

Mount Olive College is helping Tamra reach her goal.

"I'm a Free Will Baptist," Tamra said. "Mount Olive is a friendly small campus offering a good education in a good atmosphere. Since it's a degree-conferring four-year college, it's meeting my requirements very well."

For now, Tamra is concentrating on getting her degree in business management. "I don't want to get too bogged down worrying about the future," she said.

But when asked where she would like to be in five years, Tamra said without hesitation. "Northern Virginia is a definite possibility." She said that her husband and son are also

eager and willing to hit the road with her.

Postscript

"Some people say I'm too old to keep going back to school," Tamra said. "I say —'If you want something bad enough, you're never too old.'" Tamra said that she fits in very well with her classmates, many of whom are younger traditional students between 19 and 22.

Being a Free Will Baptist has been a source of strength and comfort for Tamra.

"I've been a lot of places and seen a lot of people who are floundering," Tamra said. "They don't have anywhere to turn because they don't have a spiritual life."

"Being Free Will Baptist has given me ideals and values," Tamra said. She credits her parents, church, and family for providing her strength and character.

Tamra is a happy person. You feel good talking with her. She's always smiling.

No doubt, she has experienced bumps and obstacles along life's road, but the casual observer would never know it. And there is no doubt that Tamra will graduate from Mount Olive College in May 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management — with honors — if she keeps going the way she is. And no doubt, she'll move to Virginia or somewhere,

work in the business world, and eventually go on to graduate school.

For Tamra Loftin, the journey continues, and this is just a stop along the way.



Jim Coats — Mount Olive College's Utility Batter

Every team has a player who, because of his skills, versatility and flexibility, can play any number of positions. At Mount Olive College, Dr. Jim Coats has filled this role, serving in a host of key positions during the past 21 years.

Currently, Dr. Coats is professor of business and chair of the Department of Business, a position he has held since coming to the college in 1975.

"Having participated in the education of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of students has given me the most satisfaction," Dr. Coats said. "I hear from these former students all the time."

Dr. Coats is modest about his contributions, but they are many and significant. He established the Mount Olive College's presence and program at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in nearby Goldsboro with 44 students in 1975 and ran it for three years. During his watch, the number of students grew to over 300. Today, the program at Seymour Johnson AFB is one of the college's strongest.

College Hall stands as one of the college's premier facilities, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Coats. He defined the need for such a facility, participated in its design, oversaw its construction, and developed a plan to pay for it. Today, the facility houses classrooms, offices, a basketball court, locker rooms, weight rooms, racquetball courts, trainer facilities, and collapsible grandstands. In addition to academic and athletic uses, the building accommodates large conferences,

meetings, graduations, fairs, exhibitions, and social events making it not only an important resource for the college, but also for the region.

Another of Dr. Coats' contributions was the development of a Mount Olive College degree completion program in business management in New Bern approximately three years ago. The program is specially designed for working people who have at least two years of college credits. The success of the program in New Bern led to the establishment of a similar program in Wilmington.

"Establishing Mount Olive College programs off the main campus was much more than a logistical exercise," said Dorothy Whitley, academic dean. "He was able to recognize certain educational needs and to see an opportunity for the college to extend its reach, and then he had leadership and organizational skills to make it happen. We owe a lot to Jim for his vision."

Over the years, Dr. Coats has served as the college's vice president for operations and vice president for finance. He's even served in the capacity of president of the college during brief periods of absence and illness of the president. If you name a position at the college, chances are Jim Coats has done it at one time or another.

Each time Dr. Coats has had to put on another administrative hat, he has continued to serve as a professor instructing a "full load" of students. The business program at Mount

Olive College is strong due in large measure to Dr. Coats' efforts.

Mount Olive offers a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentrations in accounting, business management, computer information systems, and management and organizational development. Students can build their programs selecting from more than 70 courses offered by the department.

As one might expect, Dr. Coats' credentials are impressive. He holds Bachelor of General Studies from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, a Master of Business Administration from Pacific Lutheran University, a Master of Arts in Personnel Management from Central Michigan University, and Doctorate in Education from North Carolina State University.

From all of this, one might conclude that Jim Coats spent his entire adult life in education on one side of the teacher's desk or the other. Not so!

Before being an educator, Jim Coats was career Air Force, first serving in the enlisted ranks, then as an officer. Having served overseas tours in Korea and Vietnam, he retired at the rank of major after 21 years of active duty.

Dr. Coats and his wife, Barbara, have raised three children — David, Michael, and Deborah — to adulthood. Jim and Barbara reside in Goldsboro. Barbara works at Belks.

The Coatses are active members of the Adamsville Baptist Church in Goldsboro. Jim teaches Sunday school and sings in the choir. He has served as a deacon, chairman, and member of the church's stewardship committee on a rotating basis.

Also involved in civic affairs, Dr. Coats was recently hon-

ored by the county commissioners for his years of service on the board of adjustment. He currently serves on the Goldsboro Community Affairs Commission and is a member of the Mount Olive Chamber of Commerce.

"Dr. Jim Coats continues to be a pillar of Mount Olive College," said Dr. J. William Byrd, president. "He serves the college in so many ways, many that are not visible to most. His many contributions begin with outstanding classroom teaching and extend to the development of innovative new programs. He is a prodigious worker who gives more than we can ever recognize."

So, if you want to find out something about Mount Olive College, its recent history or its programs, you can go to the library or the catalogs to look it up, or you can ask Dr. Jim Coats. You'll find him on the first floor in Henderson Building. It's the office with the door open.



Warrick and Malpass to Speak at MOC Commencement Activities

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, announced that this year's commencement activities will include a worship service on May 5th and graduation exercises on May 11th.

The commencement worship service will be on Sunday, May 5, at 7 pm in Rodgers Chapel. A reception for students, families, and friends will follow in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.

Mr. Almond R. Warrick will be the guest speaker at the worship service. Mr. Warrick has a history with Mount Olive College both as a student and staff member. He received a two-year associate degree from the college in 1969. After completing a bachelor's degree at

Atlantic Christian College and a master's at East Carolina University, he returned to Mount Olive as dean of students and assistant vice president for institutional advancement.

He currently serves as executive director of the Foundation for Johnston County Community College.

Commencement exercises will be Saturday, May 11, at 10:30 am in College Hall.

Mr. Hanson R. Malpass will be the speaker for the commencement exercises. Mr. Malpass is another distinguished graduate of Mount Olive College. He graduated in 1967 with an Associate in Arts. He went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to receive a bachelor's degree in Inter-

national Studies.

He was born in Calypso and was raised in the Mount Olive area. He graduated from North Duplin High School in 1957.

Mr. Malpass recently retired from the U.S. Department of State after 30 years in the foreign service. He has served in American diplomatic missions in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Central America. His last assignment was counselor of embassy for administrative affairs at the American Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica. He will speak about foreign service experiences.

He now resides in Chapel Hill with his wife, Betsy, and continues to work as a consultant for the State Department.

Smith Selected Miss Mount Olive College

Ms. Nettie Leah Smith was recently selected as the 1996 Miss Mount Olive College. She is a junior majoring in music.

Ms. Smith is the daughter of Donna and Johnny Smith of Hannah Creek Road in Four Oaks. She has an older brother, Brent, who is married and living in Coats. The family belongs to the Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church in Benson. Ms. Smith graduated from South Johnston High School in 1993.

Candidates for the honor of Miss Mount Olive College were judged in four areas: an interview, talent, casual wear, and formal wear, with special emphasis on candidates' poise and ability to communicate, according to Ms. Julie Beck, director of student activities.

Ms. Smith will receive a \$500 scholarship for being selected. She is an honor student with a 3.3 grade point average on a 4.0 system, and is active in a number of campus activities to include the choir, the student government

association, and the college ambassadors.

"Leah Smith is a good student with a lovely voice," said Ms. Irene Weldon, associate professor of music. "She is a soprano, and performs as a soloist on-campus, at local events, and in area churches.

"The interview lasted seven minutes — the longest seven minutes in my life," Ms. Smith said. "But I felt good about what I said." A panel of five judges interviewed the candidates.

For the talent competition, Ms. Smith sang "They Could Not," a contemporary Christian song by Sandi Patti.

For casual wear, Ms. Smith wore black slacks, a black blouse, and a dark red vest. During the formal wear competition, she wore a full length, blue chiffon dress with a beaded bodice.

"I am honored and shocked at being selected," Ms. Smith said. "The other contestants were very impressive, and I was fortunate to be selected."

During her very long reign, Ms.

Smith will represent Mount Olive College at this year's North Carolina Pickle Festival April 26–27, as a judge at local pageants, and as the college's representative in various local, civic, and church events.

Ms. Smith expects to graduate from Mount Olive College in May 1997 with a bachelor of arts in music.

"Five years from now, I hope to be settled, working in a church as a choir director, and giving private voice lessons," Ms. Smith said.



Happy Mother's Day

From
The Free Will Baptist Press
and
The Bible and Bookstores
Ayden, Kinston,
New Bern, and Wilson

C R A G M O N T



** IT'S TIME **

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina Ministerial Association wishes to invite you to come be with us at Cragmont Assembly on June 10-13, 1996. This is our annual Ministers' Conference and we would like for you to attend. If you plan to attend, please fill out the pre-registration form below. The cost of pre-registration will be \$35. This money will cover your membership in the Association and your picture for the week.

Make all checks payable to:
North Carolina Ministerial Association

Mail to:
Phillip Boykin
55 Lee's Chapel Church Rd. • Dunn, NC 28334

Please return this form by June 1, 1996



**Pre-registration for Ministers' Conference
June 10-13, 1996**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please indicate your building preference. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis!

☐ Main Building ☐ Motel ☐ Floyd House

☐ Dorm ☐ Off Campus

Do you have an existing health problem that would prevent you from being on the second floor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please indicate those with whom you wish to room if you stay in the main building or in the motel. _____

_____ Check here if you plan to eat supper at Cragmont on Monday, June 10. The staff at Cragmont needs this information to help them not waste food on Monday.

PLEASE NOTE: All ministers' wives who stay on campus will room in the dorm behind the dining hall. If your wife will be with you, check here ☐.

If you are unable to attend our Conference this year and wish to join our Ministerial Association or renew your membership, please send \$30 for membership dues to: Phillip Boykin, 55 Lee's Chapel Church Rd., Dunn, NC 28334.

For Schedule See Page 25.

CRAGMONT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM

June 3-8

July 29-August 3

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Church _____

Which Conference Attending: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here ☐.

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

**Mail this registration form along with
\$20.00 deposit to:**

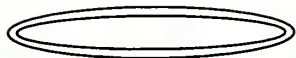
Teresa M. Ball
Route 1, Box 96-B • Grifton, NC 28530

**A balance of \$100.00 will be due upon
arrival at Cragmont.**

A day trip is being planned, and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville; these will be approximately the same cost as last year.

**So get ready to pack your bags for a
GREAT week at Cragmont.**





Right from Wrong – 101

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE YFA WEEK Cragmont Assembly June 24 - 29 For Those Ages 13 and Up

There will be:

1. Lots of young people!
2. Counselors who care.
3. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
4. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
5. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!

YFAers will soon be traveling to Cragmont Assembly to attend the 1996 Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. YFA Week is unique because it is the only encampment that Cragmont planned just for teenagers. This encampment is a time of fun and fellowship, a time of soul-searching and inspiration. This year's encampment is June 24 - 29.

The 1996 theme focuses on knowing **Right from Wrong**. Our program will feature concentrated Bible study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week will be a friendship/discipleship event, with the purpose of beginning or continuing the process of discipleship development in the lives of youth. Special attention will be given to knowing the Will of God.

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, please mail the application below soon! Send the application with a \$75 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is \$175. Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. *A special discount is available if fee is received by the end of the State Youth Convention (May 19)—or when ten or more members of a youth group attend! Write or phone for details.*

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Church _____ Birthdate _____

Send registration form and fee to: Scott and Janie Sowers,
Box 639, Bell Arthur, NC 27811; phone (919) 321-7542.

From The FWB Press...

The Bible and Bookstore in Ayden, as well as the Printing Department, invites you to plan a trip for any church group, meeting, auxiliary or church. We invite you for the day or anytime available to you. Please contact Tracy for a tour of the Printing Department or Lexine for a tour of the Bookstore. We will be glad to assist you in any way possible.

TACMO Meets at Ayden Bible and Bookstore



Pat Cheek, TACMO Director, meets with other members.



Group Members discuss business while enjoying a light breakfast

The Association of Church Media Organizations (TACMO) held their District meeting recently at the Ayden Bible and Bookstore. This organization holds seminars and workshops relevant to churches and church libraries. Director Pat Cheek says this is the first time meeting in a bookstore — which she referred to as successful.



Ladies enjoying fellowship while shopping.



Pat Cheek and several members discuss the latest bestsellers.

THE BOOK OF BOOKS

by Roy C. O'Donnell

There is no way to estimate the influence the Bible has had, and still has, on our daily lives. Because of its outstanding influence and importance, it is rightly called the "Book of Books." Even the people who have never read it enjoy benefits that would never have been theirs if the Bible did not exist. There are those who despise its influence, and they try to discredit it and suppress its use. There are others who regard it with reverence and read it daily. Some seem to regard it in a way similar to the way people in Middle Ages regarded religious relics, such as bones of the Apostles and fragments of the Cross on which Jesus was crucified. They claim for it qualities which can only be explained in terms of superstitions. I suppose most people have a certain degree of reverence for it. They want it to be available to everybody, but they may be content to let someone else read it. Some of those people who would fight you if you suggested to them that the Bible is not inerrant in every word, probably could not tell you whether the Book of Jude is in the Old Testament or the New.

The Bible is not only the object of veneration, it is also the object of misunderstanding and hypocritical neglect. I remember a story I heard many years ago about a woman whose hypocrisy in this regard resulted in her embarrassment. As the story goes, the Pastor of a country church made an unexpected visit to a parishioner's home, and the woman did not have time to do all the things she normally would have done to impress the preacher. After he arrived and they were seated in the parlor, she noticed to her dismay that the family Bible was not on display. To

remedy that deficiency, she said to her young son, "Tommy, go and get the book we all love so well and bring it here." Tommy obediently left the room and in a few minutes reappeared with the latest edition of the Sears, Roebuck mail order catalog. Examples of misunderstandings about the Bible are easy to find. I remember clearly a conversation I had with a dear lady several years ago in which some reference was made to the pictures in her Bible. It turned out that she thought those pictures went back to the days of the Prophets and the Apostles, and she seemed quite disappointed to learn that they did not. Some of those who would laugh at her ignorance may themselves be unknowing enough to go through life thinking Jesus spoke Elizabethan English, with its *thee* and *thou* pronouns and *goeth* and *saith* verbs.

Since my father was an ardent student of the Bible, I was spared some of the prevalent abuses and misunderstanding of the Holy Scriptures. The most prominent book in our meager library at home was his Bible, bound in a cover made loose and ragged by constant use and stuffed with scraps of paper on which he had made notes. When I was 14, I got my own Bible, and before I was 16, I had read it through. Since then I have re-read all of it more than once, and parts of it many times. Like all thinking people, I have encountered many questions about the Bible. At different times in my life I would have given different answers to some of these questions. What follows are some of the questions and the answers that satisfy me now.

What kind of book is the Bible?

Strictly speaking, the Bible is a collection of books and letters, written

over a period of several hundred years by various authors. It is a *book* in the sense that it is usually printed and bound as a single volume. It could also be considered a *book* in a sense that all of its parts are unified by a single theme — the redemption of mankind. Represented in the collection are poetic, dramatic, prophetic, and legal writings, as well as sermons, letters, and various kinds of narratives, including those that are historical, biographical, and allegorical. All of these materials are important in one way or another for our adequate understanding of God's revelation of Himself and His plan of salvation.

Is the Bible true?

"Are the Bible's Stories True?" is the title of the cover story in the December 18, 1995 issue of *Time* magazine. The author, Michael D. Lemonick, says almost everyone has a stake in Scripture: "Jewish and Christian ultraconservatives don't like hearing that parts of the Bible could be fictional. Atheists can't wait to prove the whole thing is a fairy tale. And even for the moderate majority, the Bible underlies so much of Western culture that it matters a great deal whether its narratives are grounded in truth" (65). He goes on to say that most scholars suspect that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob never existed, many doubt the account of Hebrew slavery in Egypt and the Exodus, and relatively few historians believe the accounts of how Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho and conquered the Promised Land. Lemonick contrasts positions of the "maximalists," who considered the Bible a legitimate guidebook for archaeological research, and the "minimalists," or biblical nihilists, who believe the Bible



MAY

Is Children's Home Month

SUN	MON	TUE	
28	29	30	1 ▼ C
5 ☆ Commencement Worship Service at Mount Olive College	6	7	8
12 <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14	15
19 + State Youth Convention at Mount Olive College May 17 - 19	20	21 ● Retirement Homes Board + Free Will Baptist Press Board 1:00 pm	22
26	27 <i>Memorial Day (Obs.)</i>	28	29

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

LEGEND

ous/following month
ent month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Retirement Homes
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Church Finance
- ◆ Layman's League
- ☆ Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- ✿ Woman's Auxiliary

	THU	FRI	SAT
nce Board	2 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	3	4
	9 ✿ State Women's Auxiliary at Deep Run OFWB Church	10	11 ☆ Mount Olive College Board Meeting, Graduation
	16	17 + State Youth Convention at Mount Olive College • May 17 – 19	18 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
	23	24	25
	30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	1 June is Cragmont Month

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

cannot be read as an objective account. First one group and then the other has dominated biblical archaeology at various times, and independent evidence has been found to support some stories but not others. Lemonick points out the truism of archaeology that "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence," and that digging up the past is a hit or miss proposition. That truism applies to genealogy as well as archaeology. For the past few years, I have spent a great deal of time researching my family history. I have learned a great deal from such things as immigration records, census records, marriage records, and land records; but in none of these have I found a single bit of information about my great-great grandfather O'Donnell. Should I conclude from this that he never existed? I don't think so!

In considering the answer to the question, "Is the Bible true?" it is important to remember that a literary composition can be true in a sense other than that of literal truth. Most people can accept this principle as it applies to such things as allegories, parables, and other extended metaphors. They can even accept the fact that it also applies to poems. In all of these, there is the possibility of conveying a deeper truth indirectly by use of figurative language. Some of these same people have trouble, however, in extending this principle to an entire narrative work, such as the *Book of Jonah* or the *Book of Esther*. But if the principle applies to selections within books of the Bible, why should it not apply to entire books? Some people, however, take this principle too far. In an article I read recently, someone was quoted as saying the question of the literal truth of the stories about Jesus in the New Testament was not important; the important thing was the idea they conveyed about the concept of God represented in them. That takes it way too far! For a figurative or symbolic representation to be meaningful, it must have a referent in reality. The idea of Jesus

as God in human form is indeed a valuable idea, but if the birth, death, and Resurrection of Jesus never occurred, what meaning could the stories have? Without a grounding in literal truth, there can be no symbolic truth; a symbol has to be a symbol of something. To answer the question directly: *Yes; the Bible is true*. Even the parts that may not be true in the strictest literal sense are still true at a deeper level. The phrasing of the King James translation of Paul's second letter to Timothy in Chapter 2, Verse 15 is especially relevant here; "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*" (Italics added). To really understand the Bible, we need to "rightly divide" it in order to know which kind of truth is being presented and what purpose is being served in specific instances.

Is the Bible inspired?

It is important to keep in mind the fact that there are different kinds of degrees of inspiration. The view of a majestic mountain or an impressive waterfall might inspire an artist to paint a picture. Or the experience of falling in love might inspire a poet to write a poem. On a different and higher level, an encounter with the Eternal God might inspire a worshiper to make some kind of written record of the experience. It is in the latter sense that we regard the writings collected in the Bible as inspired. It is also important to keep in mind the distinction between *inspiration* and *revelation*. It seems reasonable to assume that with God's investment in the human race, He would find ways to make Himself known to us. The deistic notion that God made our world and then turned His attention to other things has never made any sense to me. I believe God wants to maintain a relationship with His creation, and to do that He has to make Himself known in various ways. His making Himself known to individuals is what we call *revelation*. Some modern scholars are skeptical about the idea that God con-

veys specific information to selected individuals, but I think there were numerous instances where information was placed in the minds of those who received Divine revelation. The motivation to make a written record of an encounter with God is what we call *inspiration*. The process by which the Holy Spirit enables us as individuals to understand and apply the Bible in our own lives is sometimes called *illumination*. Some things written in the Bible were made known to the writers by natural processes of learning. These things cannot be considered the result of revelation, even though they are included in inspired writings. And while not all revelation takes the form of information, knowledge of things concerning God that could not be acquired through natural means must come through revelation. The biblical record of that knowledge is inspired.

Is the Bible the Word of God?

"Word" may be used in different senses. Usually it refers to the linguistic unit by which an idea or concept is expressed; but in the Gospel of John, it refers to Christ, the Eternal Logos, by whom God expresses Himself to mankind. According to *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, "The word of the Lord," a phrase that occurs frequently in the writing of Old Testament prophets, usually has the meaning of "the will or purpose or plan of God, revealed to individuals... The 'Word of God' was expressed through oracles, revealed laws, visions, spoken and written prophecies and teachings, and events in history. The Bible discloses how the 'Word of God' operated during more than a thousand years of Israel's history."

It is important to distinguish between "the Word of God" and the words used by men in reporting what they received from God. The words they used were the words they had learned in the process of acquiring a native language, such as Hebrew or Aramaic or Greek. The concepts they expressed resulted from their experience of contact with Deity. Again quot-

ing from *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, "The N(ew) T(estament) is the record of what took place in the minds and hearts of men as they came under the influence of the Holy Spirit in their consideration of Jesus Christ. They were inspired to a fuller understanding of the revelation which God made of Himself in His Son. The N.T. gives us the result of the inspiration. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit gave the writers all the words they used; He gave them the truth, which they then expressed in their own way. Our task is through those words to apprehend that truth." The Bible then is the *Word of God* expressed in the *words of men*. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

Is the Bible without error and infallible?

Even though it contains material that could be classified as scientific or historical, the Bible is not a science book nor a history book; it is rather a book about God and His dealings with the human race. It is primarily a record of God's revelation of Himself and His purpose to redeem mankind. *Harper's Bible Dictionary* defines "revelation" as "the process whereby God makes Himself known to men." As indicated above, we need not assume that everything in the Bible was divinely revealed to its authors. For example, much of what Moses wrote in the Old Testament must be regarded as revelation from God; but a great deal of what Moses knew, he learned from his own observation and from his contacts with Egyptians and other Hebrews. Consequently, his world view was very much like that of other people of his time. His understanding of his environment and many of the events that occurred during his lifetime can be explained as the result of natural processes of observation and learning, and consequently such understanding is not necessarily complete and accurate in all respects. And regardless of

whether Moses or somebody else wrote *Genesis*, what is important in the *Genesis* account of creation is not the details of the process, but the recognition of *Who the Creator is*. My concept of God is such that if He chose to create the world in seven days or even seven seconds, it would not disturb me. At the same time, if He took seven million years or even seven billion years to do it, that would not disturb me either. To the Eternal God, time is of no significance.

Quoting again from *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, "The author of the Book of Jonah was much ahead of his day in the conviction that God was interested even in hated Nineveh; we can indeed see that conviction as genuine 'revelation.' But the story he devised as the vehicle of his conviction is another matter; and it would be nothing less than tragic to allow difficulties in his story to lead to a rejection of its central truth — a truth so relevant to our own time." In other words, it is possible to appreciate the truth that God is concerned with the welfare of all people, regardless of ethnic or political identity, without taking literally all the details of the account of Jonah's mission. Again, if God did in fact wish to make a fish whose stomach could accommodate Jonah for three days, I would have no trouble with that. On the other hand, if the story is simply a literary form chosen by its author to convey an important truth, I will not let that lessen my appreciation of the *Book of Jonah*. I would not, however, interpret the account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the *Gospel of Luke* in the same way I would interpret the *Book of Jonah*. I consider Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus to be factual. What has to be considered infallible throughout the Bible is its message of God's love for mankind and His purpose to save us from the eternal consequences of sin. In matters concerning the way to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, the Bible is infallible. Absolute accuracy of historical and scientific details in the writings of divinely in-

spired authors, in my opinion, is not required to validate their account of God's plan of salvation. William Neil in *Harper's Bible Commentary* (Harper & Row, 1962) says: "The Bible does not stand or fall by the accuracy of its information, because it is not a textbook of science, or history or archaeology. It stands or falls by what it has to say about the purpose of life, the meaning of the world we live in, and the reality that lies beyond it. It claims to...tell us who we really are, where we should be going, what we ought to be doing, and how we can do it" (13).

Is the Bible authoritative?

The three sources of religious authority usually recognized by Protestants are: personal experience, established tradition, and the Bible. Sometimes all three are congruent; when they are not, a safe guide is to follow, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the teachings of the Bible. If tradition cannot be supported by the Bible, the tradition is what needs to be discarded, not the Bible. If my experience seems to go counter to the teachings of the Bible, I need to re-examine my understanding of that experience. The authority of the Bible is such that it can be taken as a touchstone of Faith — any religious doctrine that is based on Holy Scripture should be accepted, and any doctrine that goes contrary to the Bible should be rejected. In the Anglican "Articles of Religion," the sixth article reads as follows: "Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation." On the positive side, everything we need to know in order to obtain salvation can be found in the Bible; and it is indeed authoritative.

The Bible contains the greatest story ever told; because it shows us the way to eternal life through Jesus Christ, it is indeed the "Book of Books."

CAMP VANDEMERE

FREE WILL BAPTIST ENRICHMENT CENTER

I hope you are beginning to think about going to Camp Vandemere this summer. We are very excited about the upcoming summer at the camp. Preparation has already begun for the new camping season and I can feel the excitement in the air. By the time you read this, we will have hired our new manager as well as our new dietitian. I would like to say thank you to the many who inquired about these positions, and we regret that we couldn't hire all who did apply.

Our summer is already beginning to get filled up. I believe that we only have one week open, that is the week of July 4. If you know of someone who would like to be in charge of directing this week, or even a church who would like to reserve this week, please contact our general manager.

Work on our new pier is getting underway as we write to you, and we have high expectations that it will be completed by the time camping season begins the first of June.

We are looking forward to the State Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat starting off our summer schedule. This will take place May 31-June 1. We encourage all our churches to participate; some perhaps don't have any kind of organized men's group, but we want you to come and allow God to bless your hearts. There will be men from several different churches and we are looking forward to the fellowship. Ya'll come.

We encourage you to come and visit your camp. It is located in the Eastern part of our state, but we want everyone to feel free to come and see the camp first hand. It was originated to honor and glorify our Lord, and that is exactly what we want to do. Our mission is to serve the Lord and reach young people, as well as adults, for his glory no matter where they live.

If you are in the area, we encourage you to stop in and visit. Even better, why not plan to be in the area and spend the day with us at the camp. If you desire to eat with us, just let us know so we will have enough prepared. Breakfast is \$3.00, lunch is \$3.50, and supper is \$4.00.

Also, we have mobile or tent camper spaces with water, electricity, and dump station privileges. The rates are \$8.00 per unit. Many of you have campers, and others like to pitch a tent, so why not come and spend a week or week-end with us at Camp Vandemere. The fishing is usually pretty good, and there is a boat ramp available near by and it's free.

Let me mention our Family Sleeping Lodge. We have a very nice sleeping lodge that is available by the week or by the week-end at the camp site. Each room has two double beds, plus a sleeper sofa, a microwave oven, and a small refrigerator. You can sleep six or more if they would bring sleeping bags and sack out on the floor. Why don't you come and stay in the Family Sleeping lodge, have a quiet vacation, fish and crab from our new pier. Also, you would be in a Christian atmosphere.

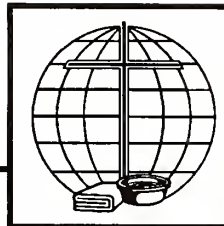
We are looking forward to seeing all the young people at camp, so please check the schedule and register early. Also, we are looking forward to seeing many adults at our mobile and tent sites as well as at the Family Sleeping lodge.

Continue to pray for our camp as we continue to serve our Lord and serve you the people.

General Manager
Rev. Ralph Sumner
571 Sumner Road
Pink Hill, NC 28572
Phone: 910-298-5885

Treasurer
Mrs. Judith Kennedy
933-N N.C.
Pink Hill, NC 28572
Phone 910-298-4311

Submitted by Rev. Owen Arthur



FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARDS PRESENTED

Mount Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church, in Creswell, has recently presented several FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARDS to members of the church. The FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD is presented monthly to a person in the church who has, over an extended period, rendered exceptional service to others, both in and out of the church. Selected by the Pastor and Deacons, the recipients of the award are selected based on their love, witness and work for their Lord Jesus Christ. Those recognized have consistently shown an unselfish concern for others, and a willingness to be of service to others.

During the last four months the award has been presented to Mrs. Virginia Haire, Mrs. Helen Phelps, Mrs. Doris Simmons, and Mrs. Cheryl Williams.

Each of these recipients has served in a variety of leadership and service positions in the church. Mrs. Haire currently serves as President of Mt. Tabor's Gennie Mae Auxiliary and also as President of the Albemarle Conference Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. Phelps serves on the church's hospitality committee and is also assistant treasurer for the church. Mrs. Simmons serves as a Sunday school teacher and is very active in the ladies' auxiliary. Mrs. Williams serves as church treasurer, is a Sunday school teacher, and is active in the ladies' auxiliary.

In a special service, each recipient was surprised with a framed certificate which quotes Jesus' Words "His Lord

said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" Matthew 25:23.

Mount Tabor Church is a member of the Albemarle Original Free Will Baptist Conference. The church is located on Mt. Tabor Road in Creswell.

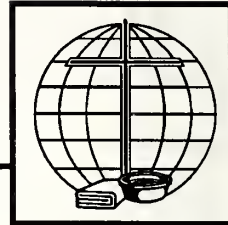


Recipients of the FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD are (L-R) Virginia Haire, Helen Phelps, Doris Simmons, and Cheryl Williams.

MT. TABOR HAS NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL FACILITY

Mt. Tabor Free Will Baptist Church in Creswell has just moved into five new classrooms in its new Sunday school building. The new Sunday school building is being built by the men of the church and is a two-story structure with five classrooms downstairs and two upstairs. Upstairs rooms are currently being finished and will be ready in time for the building's formal dedication ceremonies to be held as part of Mt. Tabor's Centennial Celebration this fall. Pictured are four members of the Nursery class along with their teacher Mrs. Lorraine Spruill. Mt. Tabor Nursery Students (L-R) Austin Jones, McKenna Fuller, Eli Spruill, Kaitlyn Davenport and Mrs. Lorraine Spruill.





Eastern District Auxiliary Convention at Juniper Chapel

The Spring 1996 Eastern District Auxiliary Convention met at Juniper Chapel FWB Church, Vanceboro, on Thursday, March 21, 1996. The theme, "Productive Praying," was taken from James 5:16: "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." In attendance were 29 churches, with 23 delegates, 81 visitors, 10 State and District officers, and 12 ministers, for a total registration of 126.

Connie Morris, host president, welcomed us to the Convention, and Ann Winborne, of Westside in Kinston, responded. Janie Sumner, of Cabin FWB Church, read James 5:16, 2 Chronicles 7:14, and John 14:12-13, followed by prayer for the day.

President Happy Taylor reminded us that our State Project Goals are \$25.00 each; and that the sum in Devotion 1996 is incorrect; and that all funds should be sent to District Treasurer Velma Morris except the registration fee for the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention in May.

In her Camp Vandemere report, Judith Kennedy noted that Women's Week is June 17-21 and will be led by Audrey Quinn and Betty Jo Wood. She asked that our District project for Camp Vandemere re-

main the same, which is \$25.00 from each Auxiliary. This project was adopted.

We were saddened by the news that Alma Buck had died earlier that day. We had special prayer, thanking God for Alma's life and service, and especially her music.

Study Course chairman Lillian Grubbs announced a District-wide study on the Manual of Methods to be held at Core Creek, Cove City, Saturday, October 26. Registration will begin at 9:30 with classes at 10:00. The course will be taught by District officers.

The Rev. Scott Sowers gave ministry reports. He likened us to team players working as one, toward the same goal for God. President Happy Taylor recognized ministry representatives who were present: the Rev. Walter Sutton, Retirement Homes; Gary Lee, Children's Homes; Cliff Gray, FWB Press Foundation; herself and Jean Ackiss, Mount Olive College; and Teresa Ball, registrar for Cragmont Women's Conference.

Special music was presented from the host church by their orchestral youth group: Jessica Fillingame, Amanda Roach, Angela Roach, Lee Wilson, Melissa Nipper, Brad Piner, accompanied by organ-

ist Carlton Buck; and their ladies' trio; Mary Fillingame, Margie Coward, and Connie Morris. The Rev. Ed Thornton, pastor of Dublin Grove FWB Church, brought the morning message. Using as his text Acts 4:23-32, he noted the 4 R's of prayer as being Response (to God's grace), Requests, Resources, and Results. He stated that, when a church prays, it has power; and asked, "Has your church got the power?"

Other reports given during the business session included Youth by Angie Piner; finance by Velma Morris; registration by Angie Piner; resolutions by Tina Wetherington. The president announced State Women's Auxiliary Convention at Deep Run on May 9; and the Fall Eastern District Convention with Spring Hope near Bridgeton on September 21.

Host pastor, the Rev. McDonal Bennett, gave instructions for lunch and gave thanks for the meal. The trio closed the meeting with "Sheltered in the Arms of God. Afterwards the host church served lunch in their fellowship hall, which they had decorated in the Auxiliary colors of royal blue, silver, and Carolina blue. Nina Grace Register, Secretary Happy Taylor, President

Smyrna Original FWB Church

The Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) reached an unusual goal during Sunday school on Sunday, March 24th.

During its 46 years, the church reached the goal of having 100% of its 107 Sunday school members present for Sunday school.

The Sunday school superintendents are Ricky Raynor and Tim Lee. The pastor is the Rev. Ronnie Hayes. Submitted by Mrs. Ray G. Smith, church treasurer



Pastor's Birthday Celebrated

March 3, 1996, was a "red letter day" at Kenly FWB Church. It was the Rev. James Joyner's birthday and much to his surprise he was given a big celebration.

Preacher Joyner opened services as usual with prayer, song, and responsive reading. Then the Rev. Howard Scott stepped from the choir and told Preacher Joyner he was taking over. He immediately announced it was Preacher Joyner's 63rd birthday and turning to the Pastor, he said "and Preacher Joyner—This is Your Life."

A quartet from the local church composed of Bill Watson, Pat Pate, Curtis Overman, and Cary Lane Cockrell sang two of the pastor's favorite songs "His Eye is on the Sparrow" and "Just A Closer Walk With Thee."

The preacher's son, Chris Joyner, made some complimentary remarks about his dad and sang a solo "Father One."

Others participating in "This is Your Life" were hidden in an adjoining room and talked to Preacher Joyner by microphone before coming out. The preacher nodded his head as he recognized their voices. There were friends and family from Pine Level. Also friends from Free Union and Lee's Chapel, churches that Preacher Joyner had formerly pastored. Others taking part were from Ayden, Durham, Mt. Olive College, and Kenly.

At the end of the service an invitation was given to come back at 6:00 for the birthday dinner in the fellowship hall, prepared by ladies of the church.

Then noon lunch was also served

in the fellowship hall for the many friends that participated in the service and the pastor and his family. This meal was catered by Storming Norman's Restaurant.

For the festivities, the fellowship hall was decorated with lighted trees, balloons and banners. The tables were covered with blue cloths, overlaid with white lace. A floral centerpiece and crystal bowl with floating camillias decorated the tables.

A big crowd gathered in the fellowship hall for the 6:00 meal. Carolyn Little gave the welcome. The devotion and blessing was given by Miriam Lamm, and everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to the preacher, after which he blew out the candles on a big birthday cake.

After the meal, special music was again rendered by the Kenly church quartet. Solos were sung by Mandy Phillips and Kathy Freeman. Donnie and Amanda Jones sang a duet.

A comical skit was given by Doug and Cary Lane's Sunday school class and the children's church sang some choruses.

Then came the funny part, everyone was looking forward to the "Roast." The first speaker was the Rev. Lester Duncan. Others included the Rev. Howard Scott, Lois Kennedy, Earl Blackman, Gloria Parker, Bobby Pope, Dorman Whitley, Joyce and Curtis Overman, Dorothy Parker, Randy Oliver, Charles Hinnant, Wesley Rowe, and Sid Edwards.

Kenan Hinnant gave the last "roast" and pronounced the benediction.

There was lots of laughter and hand clapping. Preacher Joyner expressed his thanks for his big surprise,

the "roast," his many gifts and well wishes, and everything.

It truly was an enjoyable day.

Christian Chapel FWB Church

Good things are happening at Christian Chapel FWB Church, Pink Hill, the Lord is blessing us. On Sunday, April 14th, we had another baptismal service and we are seeing an increase in attendance in all of our services.

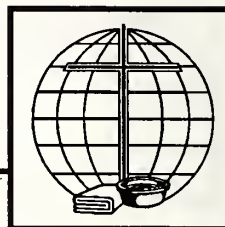
The youth are involved in our services and have just come back from a trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The youth left on April 10 and returned April 13, 1996. While in Florida, they had sessions on peer pressure, drugs and alcohol.

The adults of the church really supported our youth in this Florida trip. We raised money for the trip by having suppers. Mr. Buddy Smith sang a solo and raised \$150.00 for our youth at our talent night supper.

Rev. Steve Hargrove,
Pastor

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT
THE DENOMINATION



DUBLIN GROVE FWB CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Dublin Grove Church on Bay City Road, east of Aurora would like to share our latest activities with the other churches. On Saturday, March 2, the Youth Group sponsored a Rock-a-thon for the benefit of Cystic Fibrosis. For the preceding three weeks both children and adults raised money which was turned in on Saturday night after which we all enjoyed a covered dish supper. A total of \$783.10 was sent to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. After supper we all took turns rocking and enjoying the fellowship and playing bingo.



On Sunday morning, March 10 the church surprised our pastor, the Rev. Edward Thornton and his wife, Brenda with a celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of his ordination. This was complete with computer signs, a decorated cake, a card and a fellowship luncheon following the morning worship service. All in attendance were happy to share this special day with our pastor.

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB Hosted by Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention at Deep Run FWB Church, Deep Run, NC May 9, 1996

Theme: More, Please!

Scripture: ...this do in remembrance of me...

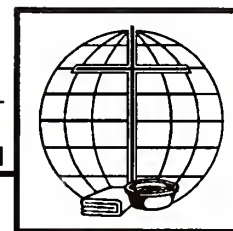
1 Corinthians 11:24.

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9:30 | Registration | |
| 9:50 | Music Medley | Deep Run Church Men's Quartet |
| 10:00 | Call to Order | |
| | Hymn | More About Jesus |
| | Greeting/Devotion/Prayer | Carolyn Jernigan |
| | | President, State Convention |
| 10:20 | Welcome | Happy Taylor |
| | | President, Eastern District |
| | Response | Joan Little |
| | | President, Central Convention |
| | Announcements/Directions | Nettie Jean Hill |
| | | President, Deep Run Church |
| 10:30 | Business Session | |
| | Recognition of Delegates/Visitors | |
| | Appointment of Committees | |
| | Morning Offering | |
| | Life Membership | Committee |
| | Special Music | Cragmont Choir |
| | Memorial Service | |
| | Hymn | I Want To Be Like Jesus |
| | Worship Service/Ministries/Communion | |
| | | The Rev. Scott Sowers |
| | | O To Be Like Thee! |
| | Hymn | |
| | Miscellaneous Business | |
| | Report | |
| 12:45 | Benediction/Blessing/Lunch | |

Trey Rombold Earns God and Country Award

Trey Rombold was awarded his God and Country Award during the morning worship service at Westside Church on Sunday, February 25, 1996. He was presented the award by his pastor, Rev. Jeff Daughtry, and Mrs. Adaline Gray, Trey's counselor for the award, pinned the medal on his uniform. Trey is a member of Westside Church in Kinston. His parents are Jim and Gwen Rombold, and Trey has two sisters, Courtnie and Brittany.





Schedule of Services for the Minister's Conference

at

Cragmont Assembly

June 10–12, 1996

A Celebration of 50 Years at Cragmont

Theme verse: *Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn* Isaiah 51:1.

Monday, June 10

7:00 pm Video of early Minister's Conferences and Personalities followed with "I remember when..."

Tuesday, June 11

9:30 am Why Should We Be Concerned With History? Dr. Michael R. Pelt

10:45 am Ministerial Code of Ethics Rev. N. Bruce Barrow

7:00 pm Business Session

8:00 pm Golden Anniversary Reception

Wednesday, June 12

9:30 am Core Beliefs And Values Dr. W. Burkette Raper

10:45 am Worship Service Rev. Carol B. Hansley

7:00 pm Holy Communion and Washing of the Saints' Feet Rev. Ralph Sumner

All ministers are asked to bring photographs, scrap books, and stories to share on Monday evening and during the Conference.

Funeral Service For John F. Edwards

John Frank Edwards, 83, of 109 Topping Road, Route 2, Belhaven, died Friday, March 29, 1996, at Pungo District Hospital in Belhaven.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 am Monday at the Chapel of Paul Funeral Home, Belhaven, with the Rev. Paul Grubbs and the Rev. Raymond Lagcher officiating. Burial followed at Sidney Free Will Baptist Church cemetery, Route 2, Belhaven.

Delma Tolan, David Burbage Sr., George Millard, Albert Ross, Steve Poole and Rudolph Poole served as pallbearers.

Edwards, a retired contractor and builder, was born August 12, 1912, in Beaufort County, the son of the late Westley and Mattie Linton Edwards. He was a member and trustee of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church. Edwards was an honorary member of Tri-Community Ruritans.

Survivors include his wife, Agnes Rogers Edwards of the home; a son, Billy Edwards of Tucson, Arizona; a daughter, Margaret Hill of Eufaula, Alabama; two sisters, Margaret Harris, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and Mildred Gurganus of Jacksonville; five grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

The family received friends from 7 to 9 pm Sunday at Paul Funeral Home, Belhaven, and other times at the home, 109 Topping Road, Route 2, Belhaven.

Memorials may be made to Sidney Free Will Baptist Church Building Fund, Route 2, Box 1970, Belhaven, NC 27810.

Wedding

Free Will Baptists are invited to the June 9, 1996, wedding of Pepper Worthington, professor of English at Mount Olive College, to Michael Gauker Warning, pastor of the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church at Sea Level. Dr. Worthington has been with Mount Olive College since 1979, has been the writer-in-residence and written articles for the *Free Will Baptist*, has worked with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc. as editor of the MOC Press. Mr. Warning is an art and theology professor for Wesleyan College at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base night program. Dr. Worthington is the daughter of W. Roy Poole of Kinston, the late Mary Ruffin Poole, and the sister of Walt Poole of Walter Poole Realty, Inc. as well as the mother of Dean Walter Worthington who is a graduate student at Harvard University. Mr. Warning is the son of Mrs. William Shirley of Vero Beach, Florida, and the brother of Cindy Carpenter of Centreville, Virginia.



Pastor Needed

Harmony Free Will Baptist Church is in need of a Pastor. If you are interested, please write or phone:

Harmony Original FWB Church

409 A.C.C. Drive
Wilson, NC 27893
919-243-5718 anytime
Ray Thorpe

"Leading the User Friendly Church" led by Dr. K. David Hines

Seminar sponsored by
Central Conference

Open To All FWB's

No Advance Registration Required

No Charge (Provided as a service to
FWB by the Central Conference)

Registration begins at 6:30 pm

May 16, 1996

beginning at 7:30 pm and
ending at 9:00 pm
Winterville FWB Church

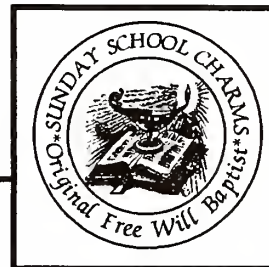
Help Camp Vandemere

The ladies auxiliary of the Verona Free Will Baptist Church would like to share with other ladies a project that we began in January of this year. As we all know Camp Vandemere is in need of many things and monies aren't always available.

We are sending \$25.00 each month to the camp for them to use as they see the needs. This might sound like a small amount, but if other churches, even Sunday school classes, etc., would take this into consideration the little amount would add up surprisingly. Remember: "Little is much when God is in it."

Please consider seriously about this and let's get our camp "up to par" as it should be.

Thank You,
Joy Thomas,
Secretary Verona FWB Ladies Auxiliary



Mother's Day

by Kathy Norman

Mothers, Have you spent sleepless nights praying for your children?

A deacon and his wife had three children, two boys and one girl. The two boys had reached the age of accountability, but these parents were concerned that they had not yet accepted Christ as their Saviour.

One afternoon, their pastor stopped by their home for a visit. The mother voiced her concern to the minister and asked, "Why haven't my boys been saved? Children of other homes in the church are being converted by the score. I know my boys are interested, but they don't show any conviction. Please tell me why."

The pastor asked this mother if she could stand a little "plain talk," the mother acknowledged that she could, so the pastor continued. "Your boys are dry-eyed and unconcerned because their mother is. Did you ever take either of them aside and talk with him about his salvation? Have you spent sleepless nights weeping over their lost condition?" The mother admitted in tears that she had not done this. The minister continued saying, "The boys are unsaved because their mother has no burden for them!"

The next morning, the mother was sad, tearful, and refused to eat breakfast. She told the family at the kitchen table that she had been up all night walking the floor and praying for her sons. She said, "My boys are on my heart, and I cannot live unless they are saved!" That very day, both boys were born again into God's family. Later that day, they told her, "Mother, we heard you when you prayed for us last night, and we are saved now in answer to your prayers!"

Children, Make a Love Cake for your Mother!

- 1 can of "obedience"
- 1 pint of "neatness"
- 1 can of "running errands" (the willing brand)
- 1 can of pure "Thanksgiving"
- Several pounds of "affection"
- Some holiday, birthday, & everyday surprises
- 1 box of powdered "Get up when I should"
- 1 bottle of "Keep sunny all day long"

Mix well. Bake in a hearty, warm oven and serve to Mother everyday. She ought to have it in BIG SLICES.



Technology And Values In A Changing World

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?" (Ecclesiastes 8:7, NIV)

The Century That Was

At the opening of the twentieth century we were living in a world of heretofore unparalleled change: the automobile, airplane, telephone, radio, and silent movies were making their advent. Man felt that he had mastered the universe, so much so that when the Titanic set sail from England to America on its maiden voyage in 1912, a passenger boarding in Liverpool was assured that "Even God himself could not sink this ship."

New technology had fostered the belief that the perfection of human life was on the horizon, and social scientists were predicting the advent of Utopia. An omen of what was to come, however, took place when the Titanic struck an iceberg in the north Atlantic and within a few hours sank with the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

The remainder of the first half of this century found the most advanced civilized nations on earth engaged in the two bloodiest confrontations in history — World War I and II. From these wars came further technological changes that made the earlier technologies look like toys. The jet airplane, the ballistic missile, nuclear energy, television, and the computer paved the way for satellites and outer-space travel.

In medical science, expanding research led to vaccines for many of our most dreaded diseases, including typhoid, diphtheria, small pox, tuberculosis, and polio. Illnesses like pneumonia that were once life-threatening are now routinely conquered and antibiotics have been developed for many infections that were once untreatable. Open heart surgery; organ transplants, eye and dental implants; and technologies for the early detection of potentially fatal diseases have extended and improved the quality of life for millions of people.

At the level of our creaturely comforts, modern plumbing has replaced outhouse toilets; the revolution in agriculture has relieved most families of milking cows, feeding livestock, raising poultry or even growing a garden; the flat iron has become an antique; we live, work, and travel in an air-conditioned

environment; and color television brings the most remote places on earth into our homes.

When the history of the twentieth century is written, the focus may well be the exploding place of technological development. Even so, we are now told that the revolution in technology has just begun.

A Century Ahead: Is Technology Enough?

As much as we need continued technological progress, I believe that what you and I want most for our children lies beyond technology.

The computer can give us more information and give it quicker than we ever dreamed possible, but it cannot make decisions or tell us how to use the information it provides. If our children are to be the beneficiaries rather than the victims of technology, they must be taught to think — to think critically and creatively. Whatever else they might have, they will not be free unless they can think for themselves.

I believe that the happiness and success of our children will also depend in large measure upon their learning to establish and maintain harmonious relationships within their family, at the workplace, and in the large society. The establishing of these relationships, however, lies beyond technology.

In addition to the capacity to think and to establish meaningful relationships, a third and most important need of our children is a commitment to those values which give meaning and strength to life.

Three thousand years ago, Moses delivered the Ten Commandments as a code of human life, and 2,000 years ago Jesus not only endorsed these Commandments but emphasized the spiritual qualities which lay behind them. Now, consider the progress we have made in technology since the time of Moses and Jesus and contrast the progress with what has happened to the values by which we live. Within our lifetime, we have seen a computer put in the classrooms of every public school but we have also seen our courts require that the Ten Commandments be removed.

In 1960, only 2% of white births in the United States were out of wedlock; today that percentage is

in excess of 22%. During this same period of time the percentage of black births out of marriage has increased from 28 to 68. I do not believe that anyone who reads these words, regardless of their color, wants this kind of society for their children.

The solution to the moral and ethical problems of our time lies beyond technology. Values can only be taught by people, and I believe there is no greater heritage parents can give their children than to teach them those values which are rooted in our relationship with the God who created us. Without these values, the financial resources we might leave our children will be but straw in the wind.

I do not know what the technology of the future

will be, but I believe that the basic values in the Ten Commandments will be as important in the twenty-first century as they have been since the time of Moses and Jesus.

It is our values which will determine whether we can use technology for the good or the detriment of the human race. I believe that the teaching of Christian values is the most important contribution we can make for our children, and it is for that reason that I have devoted forty years of my life to Christian education.

(The comments and suggestions of readers are invited.)

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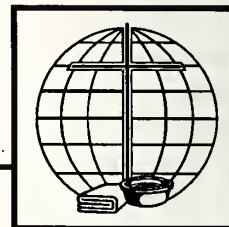
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Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



CONVENTION NOMINATION PROCEDURES

At the January 23, 1996, meeting of the Executive Committee, changes were made in the process of nominating people for vacancies. As a result, the Nominating Committee was appointed at the April 23, 1996, Executive Committee meeting. An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 1996 Convention is being made to the boards and committees of the Convention, churches, ministers, and in *The Free Will Baptist*, inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the name, church, occupation, education, and a single paragraph describing qualifications and/or gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the recommendation. Recommendations will be received through July 1, 1996. The Nominating Committee will make its decisions, contact persons to be nominated, and prepare a written report for inclusion in the Convention Report Book. In the event the Nominating Committee decides to nominate someone not recommended by a board or director, the director will be consulted and the decision will be discussed.

Vacancies to be filled at the 1996 Session of the Convention are as follow:

Officers

President (1998)
Vice President (1998)

Executive Committee

Cape Fear Conference Representative (1998)
Central Conference Representative (1998)
Eastern Conference Representative (1998)

Children's Home Board

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2000

Church Finance Association Representative

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1997

Cragmont Assembly Stock Representatives

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 1999

Foreign Missions

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation Representative

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1997

Home Missions

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2003

Minister's Program

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

Mount Olive College

5 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002

Retirement Homes

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2001

Board of Trustees

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

Chaplain's Commission

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

Commission of OFWB College Student Fellowships

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

Historical Commission

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

Layman's League Board

4 vacancies with terms ending in the year 1999

Sunday School Board

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 1999

Recommendation Form

I (We) would like to recommend _____ for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the following vacancy: _____.

Church Membership: _____ (Conference) _____

Occupation: _____

Education: _____

Qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position:

Person or group making the recommendation: _____ Date: _____

(Mail form to: Nominating Committee, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Forms should be postmarked no later than July 1, 1996.)

Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

In this issue of *The Free Will Baptist* there appears the article "Book of Books." We all know what this is about: *the Bible*.

How many of us really know and understand what the Bible is? Is it more than a bonded book filled with long chapters, and different authors with different stories.

The Bible serves as a guideline for daily living. It holds the answer to any questions we might have.

Do we really study it or look at it on our pew on Sunday morning? Study it, where if we were asked a question, could we give an answer to believers as well as non-believers.

Recently I was involved with Bible Bowl competition for the Youth Convention. Both the AFC and YFA teams exemplified their true understanding of the subject they were questioned on.

Maybe we need to take a closer look at these youths. We need to realize that the Bible is the "Book of Books."

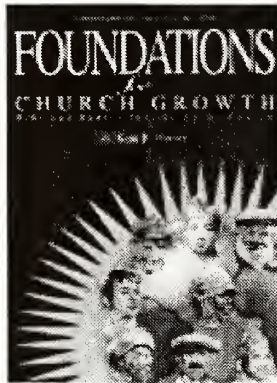
Until next month...

In His Service,

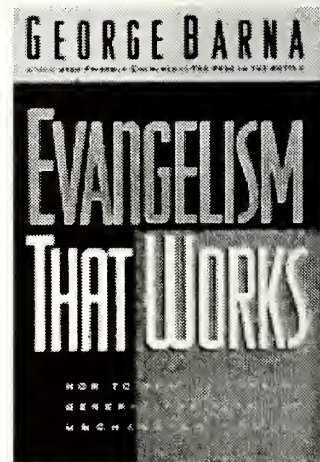
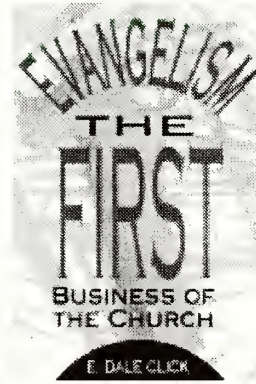
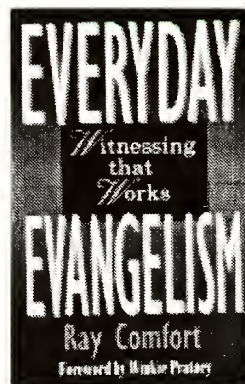
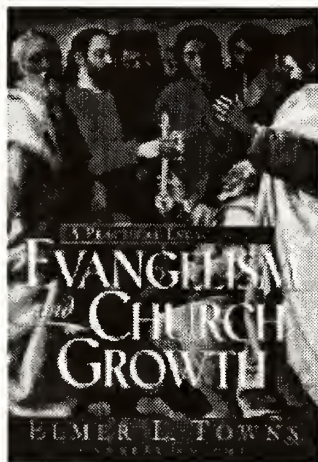
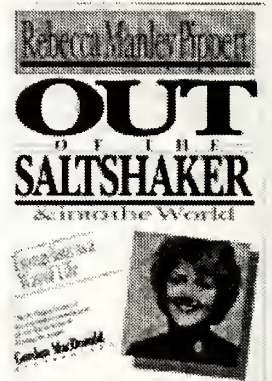
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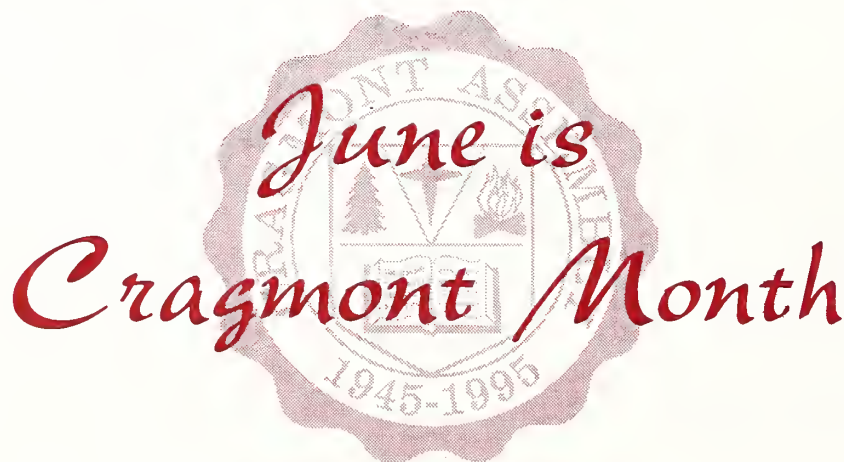
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NEXT MONTH

*July is
Christian Education
Month*



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Randy Doughtie, Press and Bindery
Nina Fussell, Bindery and Shipping

The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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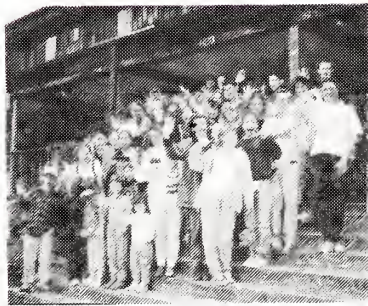
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Denominational Ministries



June is
Cragmont
month!



C R A G M O N T



As always, the Cragmont summer conferences promise to be great fun as well as spiritually challenging. We're looking forward to serving beside the directors and their staffs the hundreds that will participate. Please remember that the conferences come early this year, so register quickly to beat the crowds!

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY'S SUMMER CONFERENCES 1996

June Women's Conference

June 3-8
Contact: Teresa Ball
Route 1, Box 96-B
Grifton, NC 28530
919.524.4677
Theme: Fruit of the Spirit!

Minister's Conference

June 10-13
Contact: Philip Boykin
55 Lee's Chapel Church Road
Dunn, NC 28334
910.892.8360
Theme: Old Time Religion in the 21st
Century: a Celebration of 50 years at
Cragmont

August Women's Conference

July 29-August 3
Contact: Teresa Ball
Route 1, Box 96-B
Grifton, NC 28530
919.524.4677
Theme: not available at press time

YFA Conference

June 24-29
Contact: Scott & Janie Sowers
P.O. Box 639
Bell Arhtur, NC 27811
919.321.7542
Theme: Right from Wrong!

Christian Cadets Conference

June 17-22
Contact: Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530
919.735.3916
Theme: Deepening Your Spiritual Roots!

General Youth I Conference

July 15-20
Contact: Bryant Hines
P.O. Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
919.633.2683
Theme: not available at press time

General Youth II Conference

July 8-13
Contact: Chris Singleton
P.O. Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518
910.298.3520
Theme: Truth Matters!

AFC Conference

July 1-6
Contact: Frankie Baggett
Route 2, Box 214
Nashville, NC 27856
919.459.3818
Theme: Right from Wrong!



Renovation Update!

In a few short weeks the renovation of the north end suites of the Main Building should be finished. With the framing finished and the electrical and plumbing almost complete, it will soon be time to lay down carpet and put up wallpaper. Much of the sheet rock and new insulation is already in place. Tubs and sinks have been put in with new handicapped accessible tubs and showers going in the first two first floor bathrooms.

A lot of much needed work has also been done in the motel. Outdated carpet and some worn ceiling tiles have been replaced along with much needed mattresses. Tub kits have also been used around the existing tubs in order to make them easier to clean and much more appealing to the eye.

Please continue to pray for us. God has blessed our efforts and we live in a faith-expectation that He will continue to do so.

We Need Your Help!

As this phase of the renovations comes to a close we need funds to purchase bedding supplies for the "new rooms." In the past, many have made gifts of spreads, blankets and sheets, and we thank God for them all. However, we ask that you please make a monetary donation so that we can by in bulk exactly what we need.



C R A G M O N T



Registration Form Cragmont Women's Conference July 29–August 3

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

**Teresa M. Ball
Route 1, Box 96–B, Grifton, NC 28530**

A balance of \$100.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned, and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville; these will be approximately the same cost as last year.

So get ready to pack your bags for a GREAT week at Cragmont!



C R A G M N T



Right from Wrong – 101

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE YFA WEEK Cragmont Assembly • June 24–29 For Those Ages 13 and up

There will be:

1. Lots of young people!, 2. Counselors who care.
3. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
4. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
5. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!

YFAers will soon be traveling to Cragmont Assembly to attend the 1996 Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. YFA Week is unique because it is the only encampment that Cragmont planned just for teenagers. The encampment is a time of fun and fellowship, a time of soul-searching and inspiration. This year's encampment is June 24–29.

The 1996 theme focuses on knowing **Right from Wrong**. Our program will feature concentrated Bible study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week will be a friendship/discipleship event, with the purpose of beginning or continuing the process of discipleship development in the lives of youth. Special attention will be given to knowing the Will of God.

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, please mail the application below soon! Send the application with a \$75 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is \$175. Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. *A special discount is available if fee is received by the end of the State Youth Convention (May 19) — or when ten or more members of a youth group attend! Write or phone for details.*

Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City/Town _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Church _____
Birthdate _____

Send registration form and fee to: Scott and Janie Sowers,
Box 639, Bell Arthur, NC 27811; phone (919) 321–7542.



Right from Wrong – Jr.

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE AFC WEEK Cragmont Assembly July 1 – 6 For Those Ages 8 – 12

There will be:

1. Lots of young people!
2. Fun!
3. Counselors who care.
4. Fun!
5. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
6. Fun!
7. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
8. Fun!
9. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!
10. Fun!

The 1996 theme for AFC Week focuses on knowing **Right from Wrong**. Our program will feature concentrated Bible study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week is planned just for those between the ages of 8 and 12; and this year's encampment is scheduled for July 1 – 6.

To make sure that you are among those who attend AFC Week, please mail the application below soon! Send the application with a \$70 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is \$170. Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/AFC Week.

Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City/Town _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Church _____
Birthdate _____

Send registration form and fee to: AFC Conference,
PO Box 295, Nashville, NC 27856

C R A G M O N T



TRUTH MATTERS General Youth Conference II CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY July 8-13, 1996

"Many of our kids are making bad choices thinking they are right choices because they can no longer discern right from wrong."

Josh McDowell

GYC II for 1996 is dedicated to SETTING YOUTH FREE TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES. We are going to be using the Josh McDowell program entitled **RIGHT FROM WRONG** as our theme this year. The goal of the program is to lead young people to the conclusion that making the right moral choices every time is a direct result of admitting that God is the absolute standard of right, submitting to Him as Saviour and Lord, and committing to His ways. Everything we do at GYC II will be aimed at meeting that goal.

The cost for GYC II will be \$185.00. That includes room and board, transportation, a Carowinds trip, and a special GYC II shirt. We will send each applicant a more detailed list of the daily schedule and a list of what you need to bring.

Right Choice...Go to GYC II!!! Right!

Return to :

Chris Singleton,
PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518
Phone 910-298-3520

Name _____
Sex _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Shirt Size _____
Age _____
Birthday _____

Please enclose a deposit of \$35.00 and return by June 25th

GENERAL YOUTH CONFERENCE JULY 15-20, 1996

Attention Campers and Youth Leaders:

It's time to begin planning for Cragmont, and General Youth Conference, 1996! The staff is at work, and plans are being made for a great week of camp.

The cost for the week is \$185.00. This includes transportation, lodging, food at Cragmont, two daily snacks, group picture, activity fee, our T-shirt for the week, and tickets for this year's trip, which is tentatively being planned for "Carowinds." Please complete the registration form below and return no later than June 20th with an \$85.00 deposit. The \$100.00 balance will be due with the return of your forthcoming medical form. Checks should be made payable to General Youth Conference.

**** Please note: The \$85.00 deposit is NON-refundable after July 5th.**

General Youth Conference is a week of Christian camping for ages eight to eighteen filled with instruction, worship, recreation, music, friendship, and just plain fun. And 1996 promises to be a week full of the same.

And Remember!! GYC is open to college students 18-21! A special camping rate — classes — and junior counselor responsibilities package is offered. But space is limited. Contact Bryant Hines at the address or telephone numbers listed below for further information.

Don't delay!! We will be limited to accepting the first 175 registrations for camp. After 175 registrations have been accepted a waiting list will be formed and campers called if there are cancellations. Come as a youth group and double your fun! Make copies of this form and invite a friend! For further information call me at 638-3436 (office) or 633-2683 (home).

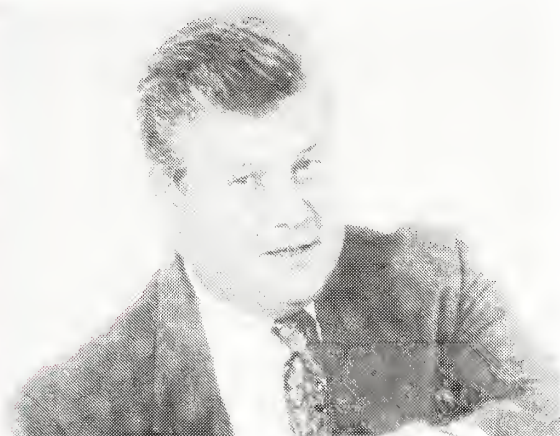
Bryant Hines, Jr., Director
Post Office Box 266
Cove City, North Carolina 28523

Name: _____ (please print clearly)
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Age: _____
Grade Completed: (July '96) _____ Male _____ Female _____
Ch. Name _____ City _____
T-Shirt Size: (adult sizes)
Sm _____ Med _____ Lg _____ X-Lg _____ XX-Lg _____

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home
is pleased to announce the Alumni Association's
50th Homecoming

Reunion on
July 14, 1996

The Alumni wants you to join them at this year's Homecoming. All Free Will Baptist churches that were sponsors are encouraged to attend and meet the child your church sponsored. Please plan ahead now and send in the RSVP form below.



Schedule of Events

Worship Service in Memorial Chapel at 10:00 am
Guest Speaker: Mr. Richard Flint, CSP
Professional Motivational Speaker

Lunch in Center of Campus at Noon
Catered by Wilbur's of Goldsboro
Cost: \$5.00 per plate

**THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU AND YOUR CHURCH TO
THE 50TH HOMECOMING REUNION
JULY 14, 1996, 10:00 AM
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

NAME/CHURCH _____

PHONE _____

There will be _____ in my party for lunch.

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF CHILDREN THAT YOU OR YOUR CHURCH SPONSORED

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 1, 1996 To:
ATTN: GARY LEE • FWB CHILDREN'S HOME • PO Box 249 • MIDDLESEX, NC 27557
OR CALL 235-2161 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

NEW WORK VISITED

After the North District Conference and the Crusade at Bantulan, Taytay Palawan, the Mission Director, the Board of Trustees Chairman, the North District Chairman, and representatives of Palawan Bible College visited the new area where Pastor Ernesto Tabanao is assigned.

This new area is Pamangtan, which is eight kilometers from Calawag, Taytay Palawan. Every Sunday they meet in the home of Brother Lariosa. Dario Basingil challenged the members from the Word of God to serve the Lord through obedience, giving, and worship.

Jesus calls us to a life of service. Servicing the Lord should always be a joy.



SHARING THE GOSPEL

by Rev. Dario S. Basingil



On January 5, 1996, the Revs. Zacarias Perocillo, Dario S. Basingil, with his wife Susan, visited Pastor Jimmy Barsarte in Duljugan, Palunpon, Leyte. While we were waiting for the vessel in Cebu Port, bound to Ormoc City, Brother Perocillo met his relative, Jun Selma. He is a barangay (village) police. After a short visit, Brother Perocillo shared the Gospel with Jun, and he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour.

Our prayer is that Brother Jun Selma will become a mature Christian and be an active member of the Cebu City Free Will Baptist Church. The Bible says, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2).

CRUSADE '96

Last February 21, 1996, the Missions Department conducted an Evangelistic Crusade in Barangay Bantulan, Taytay Palawan. During the Crusade we had fourteen people to accept Christ as their personal Saviour.

I thank the Lord for His guidance and direction to this new place to share the gospel. This area will now become an outreach of Patmos Free Will Baptist Church, under the supervision of Pastor Juanito Dulce.



SHORT-TERM TEAM PHILIPPINES 1997

The Board of Foreign Missions is planning to implement the Short-Term team ministry in the Philippines from April 19–May 3, 1997. Due to the distance and nature of ministry, the age requirement will be 18 years and up. The ministry will be a Youth Camp, but not like camp in the USA. There will be no electricity, no running water, no dining facilities, no beds, etc. This is a back-to-basics camp. Anyone signing up for this venture needs to be ready to accept this lifestyle. We need counselors, teachers, singers, and those who enjoy recreation. We also need those who are handy in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, etc. to do some general maintenance on our buildings.

Dr. Don Ribeiro and his wife, Karen, will join the team and provide a medical clinic during the time we are there. We will take a maximum of fifteen people on this trip. This will be a great experience for anyone interested in a ministry among some wonderful people. For more information, please contact our office: PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or (919) 746-4963.

Visit To Holland

My first voyage abroad was also my first flight by plane. I was invited to attend an International Youth Conference. The theme of the conference was: "Who cares?"

When the plane took off I prayed the whole Psalm 23.

In Utrecht we came together with 8000 participants and 700 volunteers from all over the world. Every day we followed seminars like: "How to reach Moslem in the Moslem world, how do we work with children, how do we lead others?" There was also a special creative group from Sweden, I enjoyed that very much too.

The speakers were SUPER. Every evening we had a special program about the suffering church: information was given, prayers sent up to our Lord, and support was offered. We finished our programs around 11 o'clock in the evening.

We prayed in small groups, sang together, ate together, slept and woke up together. I had a great time meeting so many young people from different countries. We all were brought together by our precious Lord. I thought: "Wow, so many people, all believers and such a busy time for all; in heaven it will be

even more busy."

I left my country on December 26th and returned on January 17, 1996. The New Year celebration was exciting; a big celebration with brothers and sisters in the Lord. We were not with our families, but we were together with our Lord, who is GOD Almighty. The joy in my heart was so great. After 12 o'clock am, the leader of the program said to us: "Now you greet one another with a kiss in Jesus Christ." In our tradition we don't kiss one another so easy like in West Europe. Everybody kissed everyone saying: "Happy New Year" and then we asked also: "Where are you from?" That was something so good for me, because before I was afraid to greet people with a kiss, and after this conference I feel free to kiss others. Isn't that great?

When the conference was over I went to the house of Johan and Danny. Johan is Willem's brother, they were very hospitable and kind to me. I had a good time in Holland, but I was happy to return again to my own country and to my own people, to my work which I love so much.

It was a blessing to share this experiences with my children, with the

youth, and with others at home.

I got many blessed experiences out of this magnificent conference. More than ever I am aware of the truth of the words, which were written on our program paper: "I have no heart but yours..., no voice by yours..., no hands but yours...." These words caused me to pray: "Lord, if you don't teach me to walk, how can I walk? If you don't teach me to see, how can I see? If you don't teach me to forgive, how can I forgive? If you don't teach me to love, how can I love?"

Teshdjan



F•W•B Minister's Program

*Sunday, June 16, 1996 is Minister's Program Sunday.
Please remember the work of this program in your prayers
and we also ask that you give a special offering in your
church to be used for the benefit of our ministers.*

For more information please contact:

The FWB Minister's Program

Donald E. Fader

Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

919-746-4963

MINISTER'S PROGRAM SUNDAY

The Convention has designated Sunday, June 16, 1996 as Minister's Program Sunday in the local church. It is no mistake that this Sunday is also observed as Father's Day nationwide. We feel that the attributes that make a good father also help to make a good pastor, and this day gives us an opportunity to honor our fathers and the ministers who have done so much for our church.

The Minister's Program exists for the sole purpose of promoting, assisting, and providing for the Free Will Baptist Minister. The board and the executive director work hard to provide a comprehensive, efficient, and well-managed program that helps all the ministers of our denomination.

Last year we were privileged to serve over 200 ministers and 120 of their spouses in one program or another. In addition to this for every dollar we received we returned back to the minister over 89 cents in the form of benefits. You are not likely to encounter efficiency like this in either the public or the private sector. This can be contrasted to the federal government which in some instances spends over three dollars to provide one dollar in benefits. No wonder the citizens have lost confidence in Washington's ability to manage it's own affairs.

During the past twelve months the Minister's Program has provided:

- * **An excellent retirement program.**
- * **Tax Programs for Ministers.**
- * **Advocacy programs that promote the local minister.**
- * **Seminars and assistance for the local church.**
- * **The Christmas Cheer Program.**
- * **Hardship Grants.**
- * **Benefit Programs for Widows.**

We would like to thank you for your prayers and support over the past year, and we would encourage you to be as generous as God would have you be in regard to this program.

As part of the Minister's Program Sunday observance in your local church we would like to ask that you receive a special offering for this work so that we can continue and even expand the program being provided.

If you would need additional information please contact:

Minister's Program

Donald E. Fader

Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

919-746-4963

Another Perspective On Minister's Compensation

Hardly a week goes by that I don't hear from a minister or a church regarding the issue of compensation. How much is enough and then how much is too much? What is fair? I'm afraid we don't have the time or space to answer those questions today but it is important that the church and minister agree to talk about this issue. Communication is the key to solving this question and a forum should exist for both parties to talk the question out.

The church's quarterly business conference is not the place for a discussion of this type. There are usually too many people present to allow for a frank and open discussion. I don't know of many people that are comfortable with the idea of throwing their salary and benefits out to a large group to be discussed and fine tuned. This subject is best left to a committee of individuals who are informed on such matters. A finance committee elected by the church can best address the nuts and bolts issues and then the church can make the final decision.

MINISTER'S WIDOW FUND NOTICE

The Reverend John Woodrow Byrd died recently, and his widow received the proceeds of the fund. All ordained ministers should have received a notice. If your notice has not yet been received please check your address with the Convention Office in Ayden. The number is 919-746-4963. Michelle Fordham will be able to assist you and make certain that your address is current in the system.

Thank You
Donald Fader

Once the committee is assembled the decision on the minister's pay structure is based on two simple factors, how much he needs and how much the church can afford. All you have to do is find the balance. But as America's favorite on again, off again presidential candidate Ross Perot would say "The devil is in the details."

There is an undeniable, employer – employee relationship. The employer, the church, feels that they must keep wages low to be a good steward. After all we are talking about God's money here. But is good stewardship paying the least amount for everything we get? For example if the church needs painting do you paint the exterior with a low quality interior paint just because it cost less? Of course not, because right after the first rain the church will need painting again. In the retail industry they have a saying, "The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten." Every decision cannot be based on dollars and cents. First, you must determine what you want in your minister and what you expect of him. Now we are talking about services, not dollars.

Henry Ford, widely considered to be the father of the American automobile once shocked Detroit when he raised his production workers' wage to the princely sum of \$5.00 per week. The other manufacturers were paying their workers \$3.00 per week, and everyone thought old Mr. Ford had lost his mind. He revealed, however, that his production line was speeded up and that in reality, because of this increased productivity his labor cost per car was actually less than Chrysler or General Motors. While I don't suggest that we need to double the pastor's workload, high expectations must be met with fair compensation. The Bible teaches us that "The workman is worthy of his wage." No church will ever lose because the minister is paid a fair wage.

We fool ourselves into thinking we are saving the church money when we keep the pastor's salary low but it is impossible to calculate how much we have really cost the church in terms of lost leadership, opportunity, and progress.

Once you have determined the level of service you expect, then you must settle on the pay. Some churches are fond of saying, "We are paying all that we can afford." In reality this is a secret message that when decoded reads like this, "We are not willing to give tithes and offerings to the church that are necessary to meet the church's need because this may require sacrifice on our part." Interesting, isn't it? How we are willing to sit back and applaud the sacrifice on the part of the minister, but yet we are unwilling to participate ourselves. When we all sacrifice we then give God a chance to work in our lives because sacrifice makes us more dependent on Him.

When the committee sits down with the minister, then it is important to lay out all the facts. Pastor, don't let foolish pride stand in your way of telling the committee your needs. If you are unable to meet your debts and obligations, the church needs to know. God ordained that body, the church, as His way of caring for those who preach the gospel. However, Pastor, don't fall into the trap of thinking that more money is the solution to your problem. Sometimes the answer to financial problems is not more money but being able to effectively manage the money you have.

Compensation is the total amount received by an individual for services rendered. It can be both cash and non-cash. One you can spend at the grocery store; the other you can't. Seriously, it is best to break down compensation into 3 distinct categories. There is always the temptation to just give the pastor one check per week and let him take care of everything. This is easiest on

the treasurer, and, let's face it, they are volunteers who do a good job but receive very little recognition. The more checks they have to write then the more records they have to balance and well, none of us like to create more work for ourselves.

The problem here is that when we pay our pastor a lump sum amount two things happen. One, the church's perspective of the pastor's salary is skewed because they see a single number and do not take into account the cost, taxes, and expenses that have to come out of this figure. By looking at the total without the expenses taken out the average member may say, "Hey, \$27,000 per year is not bad money." But when you take out for insurance, travel, retirement, and self-employment tax the real salary is more like \$16,200. If you consider that most pastors work an average of 50 hours per week, this is equivalent to \$6.23 per hour. A shift leader at a fast-food restaurant makes \$8.50 per hour. Most individuals that work, in either the public or private sector, receive a check that reflects what we refer to as base wages. Benefits like, health insurance, disability insurance, retirement plans, life insurance, company vehicle, and even FICA tax match are not shown. Sometimes we do not stop to think that the minister has to pay his own insurance and social security taxes as well as providing a car for church business and his own retirement.

Two, the tax consequences of the single check system are enormous. Assuming that the pastor is in a 20% tax bracket and the church is willing to establish an "Accountable Plan"* the tax burden can be reduced by over \$3,700. That is the same as giving your pastor a raise, and it hasn't cost the church one thin dime.

To be fair the committee needs to break down the income into these categories.

Fringe Income	
Retirement	_____
Medical Ins. &	
Reimbursement	_____

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS TO THE CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD AT LEE'S CHAPEL FWB CHURCH

by Rev. Don Fader

Today, I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Church Finance Association for the opportunity that they have given me by appointing me to the position of Executive Director. The CFA has existed since 1940, and while technically not a ministry of the Convention the sole purpose of its existence is to serve the churches and ministries of our denomination. Without the Convention there is no basis for our existence.

Today as I assume this role I want to pledge to our depositors that we will conduct ourselves in a businesslike fashion in order to assure them that the funds they have placed in our care are safe and sound and will be used in accordance to our charter. We must continue to prove ourselves worthy of the confidence and trust that they vested in us.

I pledge to the shareholders, whose wise investment has brought this program to where it is today, that we will continue in the course of excellence and growth achieved by those who have worked diligently and faithfully before me.

To the churches and ministers, I pledge my cooperation and dedication so that together we can meet the financial challenges that lie ahead. Over the past few years, the regulatory environment that banks and savings institutions labor under has made it increasingly difficult for churches to borrow funds through traditional networks. In addition, the merger mania that is now sweeping this industry threatens to make institutions so large that the needs of the community will be left unfilled. I like to think that CFA has been created to stand in the gap and help fill the financial needs of our churches and ministries.

No ministry, this one included, has the unalienable right to exist. The only mandate that exists is when we are meeting the needs for which we were created. We must constantly review our purpose and our goal to keep in step with what is expected and required of us by the members of the Convention.

Accountability has been and will continue to be built into the CFA. We must earn the confidence of our people on a daily basis and if this, or any ministry unfairly represents any aspect of their program then they have violated a sacred trust. We hold that trust dear, and we will continue to be responsible to our depositors, shareholders, borrowers, churches, but most of all to God. I look forward to working with you in "Funding the Vision."

Disability Ins.	_____
Life Ins.	_____
Expense	
Travel @ .31	
per mile	_____
Educational &	
Subscriptions	_____
Direct Income	
Base Salary	_____
Housing	_____
Utilities	_____

This final category is actually his salary. This is what he can spend at the

grocery store and the mall. Fringe income and expenses should be considered apart from the direct income. In reality, this is what he makes. When you do this, it presents things in a totally new light, but it is a fair light and shows more clearly the way things really are. Plan, communicate, and execute, and everyone will come out ahead.

*Accountable Plan — A tax-wise program established by the church to pay health insurance, retirement, and travel reimbursement

BUDGET TIME!

Many of our churches are involved in their annual budget considerations, and no doubt they are wrestling with the issue of how to get the most for the least in the face of increased cost and flat income projections. The treasurers and finance committee members are volunteer workers and quite often their work goes unnoticed and unappreciated. But, it is important work, and the issue of Christian stewardship is reflected in the final product that they present to the church.

A budget is defined as a plan of activity expressed in terms of expected revenues and unexpected expenses. The expectations are typically based on historical information and trends which have been analyzed over several years. The importance of good record keeping cannot be overstated, and the presence of factual data is critical.

One of the first questions asked is, "do we need a budget?" Many churches have operated for over 100 years without a budget, and I doubt they will have to close their doors if they don't have one this year. However, the presence of a plan helps focus the congregation's attention on what they need to do on a quarterly, monthly, and weekly basis to make certain that the church does not go broke. Nothing makes a treasurer more nervous than to realize that if this week's offering is the same as last week's offering, something or someone will not be paid. More than once the deacons have gathered in a back Sunday school room to "make up the preacher's pay."

This is not God's Plan for the support of His Church! Support of the Church is based on a regular and systematic program called tithing, and it involves everyone in the church. (See the Articles of Faith, Article 15 page 53) A budget helps to show each person how vital their gift is and where they fit in the financial success of the church.

While the budget may be prepared by a committee, it belongs to each individual member. The success or failure of that plan is based on their support. Everyone needs to be a part of and feel a part of this process, and each member should be given an opportunity to make recommendations and vote on this document.

The process should begin and end in prayer. This is God's money, and we need to make sure that our plan is in His will. The process is not a time of fellowship, but a time of serious work and contemplation. You need to have a least the last three year's financial reports before you and also a good idea on what increases you will need to look at for the coming year. The budget does not live in the present, rather it is a creature of the past and the future. The secret is to create a meaningful plan that will accomplish the church's financial needs for the coming year.

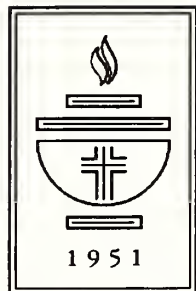
Where do you start? Some organizations and individuals start with their monthly recurring expenditures. These would include lights, water, fuel oil, gas, insurance, cleaning, maintenance, and so on. You should start with the most important items, which is your reason for being. These items include funds for the local ministry.

Begin with promises you have made like debts and other contractual obligations. Items like a loan represent your promise to other individuals or institutions. What does it say about your witness if you are trying to promote the cause of Christ, and yet you do not pay your bills on time. If you have promised to do something then by all means honor that promise. Another obligation is your pastor. His need to provide for his family and loved ones is just as critical as your own, and he must be able to labor in the vineyard without being burdened with undue concern about the needs of his family. Next comes your outreach programs like Sunday school, youth programs, benevolent work, and other local projects.

Then comes your support of our denominational ministries, all of them. Don't withhold your support because you don't like the director, or a particular project of the ministry. Work through established means to bring about change in a ministry, but don't starve it! At an absolute minimum each church should tithe at least 10% of it's total income to the denominational ministries.

The next step is to provide for the upkeep of the church, lights, water, and capital improvements. No doubt some of you are thinking that if we can't afford to keep the lights on how can we do these things mentioned above? The question comes back to the point that if we cannot provide an effective ministry, why do we need the building and lights?

You hear very few amens when a budget is presented to the church, but although it may not seem very spiritual, how we manage the financial affairs of the church says a lot about who we are and what we believe. Every member that supports the church should take part in this process, and, by the same token, if you do not support the church, you forfeit your right to have a say in how the money is spent. Be a part of the process, give regularly and systematically to the work of God's Kingdom.



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College Honors Students' Achievements

Mount Olive College held its annual Awards Day last Thursday to honor students for achievements and contributions in student activities and academics. The honors were bestowed at a mid-day ceremony in Rodgers Chapel. Athletic honors were announced later in the day at an evening banquet in the Murphy Center.

Student Activity Awards

Ms. Meredith Craig was presented the Jan Brewer Scholarship Award by Dean Karen Van Norman. The award recognizes an outstanding student who is overcoming adversity in pursuit of a college education.

Mr. Bryan Hedrick was selected by fellow students to receive the President's Citizenship Award for making the greatest contribution to the college during the academic year. Dr. J. William Byrd, college president, made the award.

Mr. Jason Myers and Ms. Amanda Parrish received Senior Citizenship Cups from Ms. Julie Beck, student activities director, for displaying outstanding qualities of citizenship during the year.

Ms. Heather Fowler was honored with the Founders' Leadership Award for character, initiative, and leadership. Dean Van Norman made the presentation.

Ms. Lilian Oliviera-McDonald was presented the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence by Dean Van Norman for being selected as the most outstanding graduating senior displaying all-around excellence.

Mr. Bryan Hedrick was introduced to the Mount Olive College community as the new president of the college's Student Government Association

(SGA). Other new SGA officers are: Ms. Reem Al-Khateeb, vice president; Mr. Ernie Taylor, treasurer, and Ms. Reagan Singleton, secretary.

Academic Awards

Ms. Tamra Loftin was presented the M.L. Johnson Business Award by Dr. James Coats, chair of the Department of Business, for showing the greatest promise in the field of business.

Mr. Stephen Anderson was awarded the Handy Mart Business Scholarship by Dr. Coats for best exhibiting excellence in academics and community service.

Ms. Suzanne Oliver and Ms. Perry Royal were selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships by the North Carolina Certified Public Accountants Foundation.

Ms. Bridget Vernon was given a \$750 scholarship by the North Carolina Certified Public Accountants Foundation.

Ms. Victoria Todaro was selected by audition and interview to receive the Kathleen B. Warren Music Award for outstanding musical achievement.

Ms. Julie Wetherington, a pianist, was selected to receive the first William L. Warren Music Award for instrumental study. Ms. Irene Weldon, associate professor of music presented the music awards.

Ms. Kerri Henrickson was selected to receive the Sophia H. Potts English Award for excellence in writing. Dr. Sarah Clere, chair of the Department of Language & Literature, made the presentation.

Ms. Jacqueline Johnson was presented the Outstanding Recreation Major Award. Making presentations for the Department of Recreation & Lei-

sure Studies was Associate Professor Sharon Carter.

Ms. Kendra Jones was presented the Most Promising Underclassman Award in Recreation & Leisure Studies for academic excellence.

Ms. Shelly Schwarz received the Recreation & Leisure Studies Distinguished Service Award from Dr. Carter.

Mr. Drew Edwards was honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award for academic excellence and contributions of time and energy in the field of recreation & leisure studies.

Mr. Russell Stephens, Class of 1994, received the 1996 Alumnus of the Year Award for his mentoring and help in providing students with hands-on experience in the field of recreation.

Mr. Brad Williamson received the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Award from Dr. K. David Hines, chair of the Department of Religion, for demonstrated potential for excellence in the Christian ministry.

The Rev. Bobby Johnston was awarded the W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award as the most outstanding graduating ministerial student based on academic excellence and commitment to the ministry.

Mr. David Denoo was presented the Lorelle F. Martin Award by Dr. Richard R. Bounds, department chair, as the outstanding returning science major.

Ms. Andria Lee received a \$50 Savings Bond for the best scientific research conducted by a senior.

Ms. Kimberly Miller was also presented a \$50 Savings Bond as the most promising science student.

Ms. Julie Craft and Ms. Andria Lee were presented plaques for contributions to the Department of Science and Mathematics.

Ms. Sara Parker was named to receive the Claude Hunter Moore Award as the returning history major showing the most promise. Mr. Kenneth W. Dilda, associate professor of history, presented the award.

Mr. Bryan Hardy received the Faculty Award for Student Excellence for academic excellence and superior extracurricular activity involvement. Ms. Pamela Wood, professor of library science and chair of the faculty awards committee, made the presentation.

Ms. Sara Parker was honored with the Freshman of the Year Award. Ms. Linda Greenwood, director of advisement and career development, presented the award.

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges certificates were presented to Mr. Jason D. Carter, Ms. Charlotte M. Fields, Mr. Gary A. Fowler, Jr., Ms. Diane C. Hatcher, Ms. Venita L. Jenkins, Ms. Martha J. Lee, Mr. Richard J. Marshall, Jr., Mr. Jason N. Myers, Ms. Amanda Parrish, Ms. Martha D. Peacock, Ms. Donna A. Pilkington, Mr. Tommy M. Popovic, Ms. Jean A. Rodriguez, Mr. Michael Saviak, Mr. Michael D. Smith, Ms. Candace R. Tefertiller, Ms. Ruth E. Varner, and Ms. Dana L. Westerbeek.

Finally, four retiring College Marshal Awards were presented certificates and engraved keys by Faculty Marshal Gary F. Barefoot. Retiring are: Ms. Kristina Griffin, Ms. Mary Ann Ham, Mr. Tommy Popovic, and Ms. Perry Royal.

Ms. Ruth Carter, Ms. Jennifer Ellis, Ms. Suzanne Oliver (chief marshal), Mr. Bryan Hardy, and Mr. Michael Wiggs were acknowledged as College Marshals continuing to serve.

Ms. Sheryl Johnson, Ms. Tracy B. Turner, Ms. Adrienne Bryan, Ms. Valerie Edwards, and Ms. Julie Wetherington were introduced as new College Marshals.

by gmn



Ms. Tamra Loftin, a member of Harrell's Chapel FWB Church in Greene County, received M.L. Johnson Business Award for demonstrating the greatest promise as a business major. Presenting the award is Dr. James Coats, chairman of the Department of Business.



The Rev. Bobby Johnston, pastor at White Oak Grove FWB Church in Lenior County, was awarded the W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award as the most outstanding graduating ministerial student based on academic excellence and commitment to the ministry. Making the presentation is Dr. K. David Hines, chairman of the Department of Religion.



Mr. Brad Williamson, a member of the Rocky Mount FWB Church in Nash County, was honored with the Free Will Baptists Ministerial Award for demonstrated potential for excellence in the Christian ministry. Dr. K. David Hines made the presentation.



Ms. Julie Wetherington, a member of the Gethsemane FWB Church in Craven County, was awarded the William L. Warren Music Award for instrumental study. Making the presentation is Ms. Irene Weldon, associate professor of music.



Dr. Richard Bounds, department chairman, presented plaques to Ms. Julie Craft and Ms. Andria Lee for contributions to the Department of Science and Mathematics. Ms. Craft (center) is a member of the Milbournie FWB Church in Wilson County.



Mr. Karen Van Norman, dean of student development, administers the oath of office to the new slate of Student Government Association officers for the 1996-97 academic year. They are (L to R): Mr. Bryan Hedrick, president; Ms. Reagan Singleton, secretary; Ms. Reem Al-Khateeb, vice president, and Mr. Ernie Taylor, treasurer. Ms. Singleton is a member of the Beulaville FWB Church in Duplin County.

in which some study course or other activities will be undertaken.

As one would read the words of the Psalmist in 85:6, it is evident of a cry from the heart for something one does not have, and it will only come from God. Revival is an activity of God. It is the work Christ does for men and women who are hungry for spiritual bread, whose souls are like the "dry and thirsty land!" Revival is an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results. Revival is the spiritual awakening of a person who has previously been converted, but whose life is in a state of spiritual poverty. Charles G. Finney, a great evangelist of America in the late nineteenth century, defined revival as "the renewal of the first love of Christians, resulting in the awakening and conversion of sinners to God."

Dr. Roy Fish states that revival is a "fresh touch from God, releasing His people unto the fullness of blessing. It is a divine invasion of love, joy, peace, and conviction. It is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church, empowering believers to love each other unconditionally, to rejoice in the Lord plentifully, to praise God appropriately, to serve Him productively, to live lives that are godly and to witness for Him convincingly."

Revival, then, in its essence, is the work of God through the Holy Spirit in restoring the people of God to a deeper, more vital spiritual life, witness, and work in doing His will and mission after repentance for their own spiritual decay and decline. Revival is the awesome activity of a holy God in response to a people who are willing to pay the price of obedience and surrender to His divine will, and whose heart and, perhaps, life is in the state of the bones in Ezekiel's vision. The prophet looks over the immense valley and sees nothing but dead bones that are lifeless and very dry (Ezekiel 37:2). They remain in that condition until the God of Heaven in His mighty sovereignty moves upon them with His Spirit, and only then are

they made alive! "And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you and ye shall live..." (Ezekiel 37:13-14).

I say to you, dear reader, the same mighty God who moved upon those old dry bones is the same God we serve today! He has not changed, nor has He moved one inch in either direction away from us! He is the same as He was three thousand years ago, and will be the same ten thousand years from now! The source of revival is the same God that David cries out to in his hour of deepest need. He is the same God who said to Jeremiah, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (29: 12-13).

Where, then is the path to revival? Repentance, prayer, and a deepening heart hunger for God are always elements along the path to revival. It is repentance that comes out of a broken heart that is lifted in continual prayer! 2 Chronicles 7:14 gives us God's formula and plan for revival: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

The people of God must meet God's conditions! We must be willing to humble ourselves, confess our own sins of prayerlessness and coldness, and turn to God in repentance, seeking His forgiveness and mercy! It was the great Bible commentator, Matthew Henry who said, "When God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is set them a-praying." George Whitefield, a leader of the Great Awakening in America said, "Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer." As a result of his prayers and countless others, the Holy Spirit moved across

America like a mighty wing, convicting, convincing and saving thousands of souls who were lost and facing eternity without hope.

E.M. Bounds, writing to preachers in his excellent book *Power Through Prayer* states "No erudition, no purity of diction, no width of mental outlook, no flowers of eloquence, no grace of person can atone for lack of prayer.

When we who call ourselves the people of God, are fully persuaded that the God of all mercies is the God of revival, that Pentecost is a continuing possibility, and refuse to let go of God in prayer until He blesses, then we shall see a pouring out of His great blessings so that the Church will scarcely be able to contain them. We, like Ezekiel, will stand in awe at the mighty power of God as He brings the breath of His Spirit upon what will be a mighty living army energized by a new Pentecost experience!

John the Baptist spoke to his generation with the words "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." By confession in humility, by prayer arising out of hungry and broken hearts given to repentance, by seeking the face of God, believing that He hears and will answer our prayers, then revival will come. Until we can repent and leave behind the attitude of the Laodicean Church, "I have need of nothing," God will not move mightily upon the Church.

But once that is done, and the people of God prepare themselves and get ready for God, the wind of the Spirit can blow anew upon His Church. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan tells us: "We cannot organize a revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again."

Dear reader, let us meet God's conditions, set our sails and be prepared as we look to Him as the Captain of our ship, Who causes the mighty wind of the Spirit to blow! Let our prayers be ever before His glorious throne: "O God, wilt Thou not revive us again that thy people may rejoice in Thee."

JUNE



IS CRAGMONT MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	
26	27	28	29
2	3 ✦ Press Board Meeting 1:00 pm	4	5
▲ JUNE V			
9	10 ✦ Press Material Deadline	11	12
▲ MINISTER'S CONFERENCE			
16 <i>Father's Day</i> <i>Minister's Program Sunday</i>	17	18 ○ Sunday School Board 7:00 pm	19
▲ CHRISTI			
▼ SHORT TER			
23	24	25	26
▼ SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP I			
* YOUTH FRO			

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRE

G E N D

ious/following month
ent month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Foreign Missions
- ◆ Layman's League
- * Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- * Woman's Auxiliary

THU		FRI		SAT
	30	31		1
	6	7		8
N'S CONFERENCE (CRAGMONT)				
	13	14		15
AGMONT)			▼ SHORT TERM...	
	20	21	Summer Begins	22
ADET CONFERENCE (CRAGMONT)				
MISSIONS TRIP I				
	27	28		29
R CONFERENCE – YFA (CRAGMONT)				

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

A TRIBUTE (Eulogy)

(In Memory of Our Father, Clarence Henry Overman, Sr.)

by C. H. Overman, Jr.

In behalf of our family, I want to express our deep appreciation for each act of kindness and love shown to us in the death of our Daddy. We are so very grateful for the support given to us by the people of this church. We thank you for the visits you made to see Daddy during recent weeks, for the cards, and especially for your prayers. We are so grateful for the love shown to Daddy during the almost two months in the nursing home; for those who so tenderly and compassionately cared for him, who soon began to call him "Pa" also; who soon learned, like we have known for many decades, that Daddy could tell you what, when, and how to do something, or not to do something.

Also, in behalf of our family, I want to thank "Preacher Billy" for his many visits, his prayers, and concern that he has shown Daddy and for all of us. The fact is, there has been some discussion about our adopting him into our family, but really we have long been in the same family—the family of God.

I found that what I am doing in these few words is presenting an "Eulogy," which is a speech given in praise of someone. So as briefly as possible, I'll forget all the negatives and think only of those things that will offer praise for one whom we loved so dearly.

DADDY WAS A TEACHER

Don't get me wrong. We all know that Daddy, so far as I know, never officially taught a class, or anything like that. Such was not his way; but my how he taught, and he had 95 years to do so.

He taught us the true values of life—that honesty and fairness are true values; that debts must be paid. He taught us kindness and virtue, that morality is important. He taught us the meaning of friendship and concern for others. He loved to talk to people—to anyone who

would talk back—strangers on a fishing pier, or fox-hunting buddy, or a neighbor down the road, or a fellow Christian at church.

He taught us the value of work as we were growing up on the farm. We certainly did not always work as we should, but his example was there. And somehow I will always believe that some of the work was only to keep us busy—to teach us that physical labor did not really harm us, but was helping to build character. Our conclusion is that the "Waltons" really had nothing on us as a family.

He also taught us the importance of endurance. During Daddy's 95 years, like most of us, he faced hardships, losses, and heartache; but he endured. He somehow seemed to press on regardless of the outward circumstances. In reality, you couldn't stop him, and that's what kept him going right up to the end.

He taught us the beauty of things that grow—the flowers and the crops. He taught us that it doesn't really take a lot of things to bring contentment.

He taught us the importance of church involvement, setting the example in church attendance and support.

More important than anything else, he taught us to love. This love has bound us together, giving us many family gatherings over these many years. These things cannot die, for these are the things that endure. How thankful we are for the great example our Daddy set before us, for these values that he instilled in us.

Down on the farm, beyond the back field and next to the acre-field, there is tract of timber. Almost three years ago, Daddy sold that timber. The purchaser had three years to remove it. Ironically, and rather strangely, the very day that Daddy died, George told me that the timber would be cut within a few days. There are poplars, gums, and oaks that grow there. Soon they will be cut down and removed from their roots. But their purpose will not end. They will be changed perhaps into a piece of furniture, or beams for a building. During their standing in the woods, they endured many storms. They also provided protection for the things that grew about them. On Thursday afternoon our Daddy was removed from his earthly roots. Like the trees soon to be cut down, he had endured. Now he has been removed to serve another purpose. His transformation has taken place, and God is honored and we are blessed and reminded that "all things work together for good to those who love God.

C. H. and his family wishes to thank you all who remembered Mr. Clarence Overman at the time of his death.



Ruby Overman, Clarence Overman (age 92) C. H. Overman, Jr. celebrating C. H.'s 40 years of ministry.

TO: FREE WILL BAPTIST LAY LEADERS
SUBJECT:
NOMINATIONS FOR THE
ELDER P. T. LUCAS PASTOR'S AWARD

In recognition of the outstanding service rendered by many Free Will Baptist pastors, Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina, has established the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award through Mount Olive College. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community, and denomination. Emphasis is to be upon pastoral services and may include bi-vocational pastors who serve small churches. The award is to be used by the recipient to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry. The recipient is to provide a written report of how the funds benefited his pastoral ministry within one year of being recognized.

Originally from the Union Grove Church near Nahunta, Dr. Morris is providing a \$1,000 award as a memorial to the late Elder P. T. Lucas, Dr. Morris' great-grandfather. Elder Lucas, a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century, is remembered for his pastoral services. In sponsoring this award, Dr. Morris is seeking to strengthen and support the pastoral ministry.

The recipient will be selected from those nominated by their churches according to the following criteria:

1. **Pastoral Leadership and Service.** This category, which will receive the greatest weighing in the evaluation, includes effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development;
2. **Denominational Services,** including service to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries; and
3. **Community Service,** including services such as participation in local community ministries and service as a volunteer chaplain.

If you feel that your pastor has excelled in these areas, your church is encouraged to nominate him for this award by completing the following information sheet and attaching a letter of recommendation. Both the information sheet and the letter must be signed by the clerk of your church and the deacon chairman. To be considered for the 1996 award, nominations must be received by July 15. The recipient will be announced at a luncheon during the Pastor's Conference on August 5 at Mount Olive College.

The selection committee for this award will include representatives from the North Carolina Ministerial Association and Mount Olive College. Please address all nominations or questions to: The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, or call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

**The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award
Nomination Form**

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award is sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris in honor of his great-grandfather who was a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century. Dr. Morris was motivated to sponsor this award by his appreciation for the Reverend James Evans who was his pastor when he was growing up in Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Evans' ministry was marked by his deep concern for the needs of his people. Dr. Morris wishes to honor ministers who demonstrate these special qualities. This \$1,000 award will be presented at a luncheon held during the Pastor's Conference on August 5, 1996 in the Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College.

Pastor's name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Current pastorate: _____ Beginning date: _____

Conference membership: _____ Date ordained: _____

1. **Pastoral Leadership and Service.** In the space below or in a letter of recommendation describe your minister's effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development. Please note that the major criteria for this award is extraordinary pastoral service. Give specific examples.

2. **Denominational Service.** In the space below note services to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries. Include offices held, board memberships, and involvement in special projects. Give the dates when appropriate.

3. **Community Service.** Note participation in local community ministries such as service as a volunteer chaplain. List offices held and give the dates when appropriate.

Please attach any additional information you think might help the committee evaluate the services and work of your pastor.

Signature: _____
Deacon Chairman Date Church Clerk Date

Please return this form along with a letter of recommendation by July 15 to: Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. For information call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

CAMP VANDEMERE

FREE WILL BAPTIST ENRICHMENT CENTER

The summer is here, and by the time you read this we will be beginning our new camping season. We have a full schedule except for the week of July the fourth and we are looking forward to each group that will be coming to the camp this summer. If you haven't made your reservations, we encourage you to soon.

Things are going very well with our new pier. We were a little slower getting started than we had planned due to securing permits and some bad weather. All the pilings are in and we plan to start the decking by the first of June. If all goes well we hope to have it completed by the end of June, maybe a little sooner. We want to thank all those who have worked so hard and for those who will soon be working hard. Continue to pray for this important project.

The camp has made some improvements in our facilities. Both the girls' and the boys' showers have had work done. Doors were installed in the girls' showers, replacing curtains. Partitions have been installed in the boys showers giving them more privacy. Also we repaired a drain problem in the girls' showers, and are hopeful all will be well when campers arrive.

We have a new manager. He is Mr. Aldric Gaskins from St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church (Eastern conference) in New Bern. Perhaps we should say manager team, since his wife Julia Ann will be going with him. Both of these have been members of F.W.B. churches for a long time, and they have a lot of ideas along with a love for the Lord. Mr. Gaskins is retired from the Naval Air Station at Cherry Point, where he was a material planner and also served as relief supervisor. He is a Sunday school teacher and deacon at his church. Brother Gaskins has held many positions over the years in the church and since retiring has attended Craven Community College and completed a year of the Business Curriculum. Please join me in welcoming Aldric and Julia Ann to our staff at Camp Vandemere. We are looking forward to seeing them at the camp.

We also have a new dietitian. She is Ms. Annie Williams from Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church in Arapahoe. She comes to us with lots of experience in her field. She has managed two different restaurants, and is presently working in the Pamlico county school systems. Also she is working on her degree in food service. Annie said she wanted to be a worker for the Lord, and she heard there was an opening at Camp Vandemere. After praying she applied for the job and the Lord led the board to hire her. Please join me in welcoming Annie Williams to our staff at Camp Vandemere. We are looking forward to seeing her and dining with her at the camp.

We would like to say thank you to all the churches, Sunday school classes, auxiliaries, men's fellowships, men's laymen leagues, youth groups, and all others who are supporting our camp. Your support has been greatly appreciated, and we praise God for your generosity.

Don't forget about our Family-Sleeping Lodge. It is available for rent by the night, week-end, or by the week. The cost is \$25.00 per night. The rooms usually sleep six persons but you may want to bring sleeping bags and sleep more. The view is great from the deck as you look over the camp at the beautiful Bay River. This is a very good place to come relax and get away from the hurry of our busy lives. Please contact our General Manager for your reservations.

Let me share with you something that needs your prayers. Our pool is getting to the age that it will soon need replacing. We hope it will last for the summer so that we can wait until next season to replace it. Such a project would cost eight or nine thousand dollars to put in a real nice pool, one that would last for many, many years. A pool that would be partly in the ground and part above the ground with the dirt banked around it would work very nicely. Then you wouldn't have to worry about the metal exterior rusting as it has done on the existing pool. Perhaps some of you could give us some ideas concerning replacing our pool.

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who came and worked during our clean-up day. A lot of people came, worked hard, and all had a great time. Let me say Thank You to Macedonia F.W.B. church, Eastern Conference, for the new swing set and other items they gave the camp. They all will be a great help to our camp.

If you are not receiving our newsletter and would like to be placed on our mailing list, all you have to do is mail your name and address to our General Manager and your name will be added to our mailing list. Perhaps your church would like to send the name and addresses of all your members. We have had several churches do this and they are enjoying receiving our newsletter.

General Manager:
Rev. Ralph Sumner
571 Sumner Rd. • Pink Hill N.C. 28572
Phone 910-298-5885

Treasurer:
Mrs. Judith Kennedy
933-N N.C. 41 • Pink Hill N.C. 28572
910-298-4311

Family Sleeping Lodge At Camp Vandemere Enrichment Center

Rooms with two double beds, a sleeper sofa,
microwave over, small refrigerator. Sleeps six, more if you bring sleeping bags.

\$25.00 per night

(Bring your own toiletry items and bed linens)

Contact: Rev. Ralph Sumner, General Manager

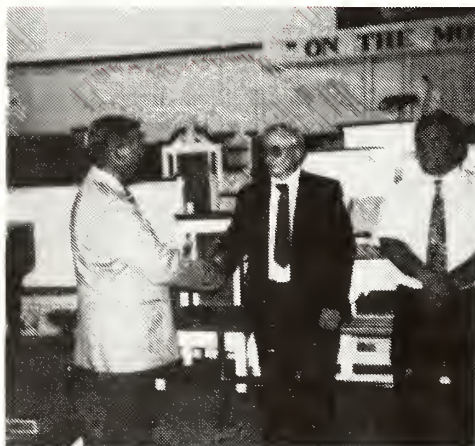
571 Sumner Road

Pink Hill, NC 28572

910-298-5885

Layman League Convention

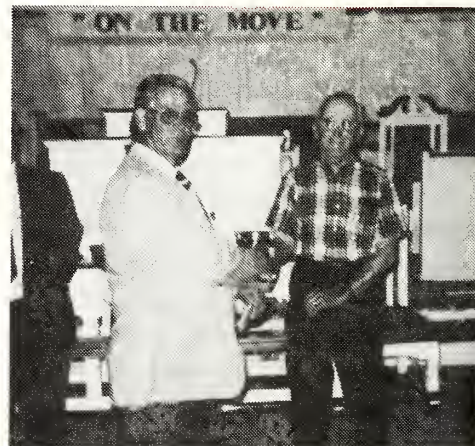
1st Tarboro Free Will Baptist Church



Layman League Convention President, Elmer Harrell, congratulates John Newton on his new position, effective July 1, 1996, LLC President.



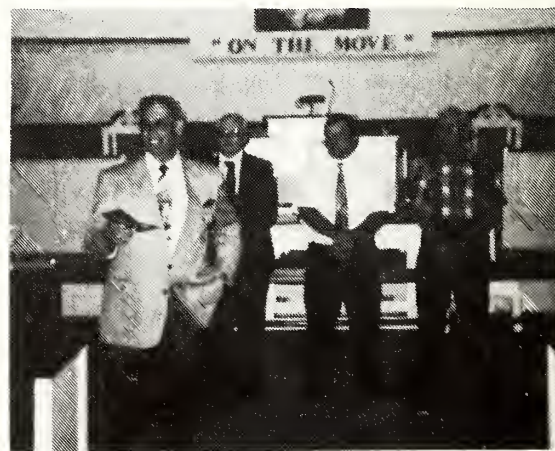
LLC President, Elmer Harrell congratulates Scott Murphy on his new position, effective July 1, 1996, as Secretary of LLC.



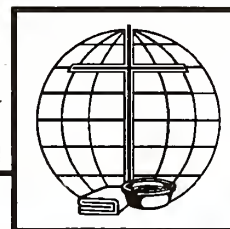
LLC President, Elmer Harrell, congratulates Robert Tripp on his re-election as Treasury of State Convention Laymans League.



Tarboro 1st FWBC New Wings, John Newton, Jerry Wan, Scott Murphey, and Max Gardner.



Elmer Harrell giving oaths to new LLC officers. L-R: Elmer Harrell, John Newton, Scott Murphy, and Robert Tripp.



Ladies Week at Vandemere

Theme: Protection and Prayer

Scripture: Philippians 1:19

Auxiliaries, please have your Woman of the Year with her resume present on Monday, June 17. The Woman of the Year program will begin at 2:00.

Monday, June 17

10:00 am Check-in
11:00 Devotion
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 Rest Period
2:00 Honoring Our Women
4:00 Crafts
5:30 Dinner
7:30 Worship – Rev. Mark Menervino

Tuesday, June 18

8:00am Breakfast
9:15 Devotion
9:30 Leave on Bus
12:00pm Lunch
4:30/5:00 Return
5:30 Dinner
7:30 Worship – Rev. Mike Scott

Wednesday, June 19

8:00am Breakfast
9:00 Picture Taken
9:30 Devotion
9:45 Crafts
12:00pm Lunch
1:00 Rest Period
2:30 Crafts
5:30 Dinner
7:30 Worship – Rev. Walter Sutton

Thursday, June 20

8:00am Breakfast
9:15 Devotion
9:45 Boat Ride
12:00pm Lunch
1:00 Rest Period
3:30 Crafts
5:30 Dinner
7:30 Worship – Rev. Ed Thornton

Friday, June 21

8:00am Breakfast
9:15 Devotion
9:30 Check out – Goodbyes

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL FWB CHURCH HAS WORK SHOP

On April 29th Christian Chapel had a Vacation Bible School workshop for their teachers. The workshop was conducted by Wallie Hargrove. Many ideas were discussed on ways to make their Bible school a successful one. Teachers being prepared for each night class was stressed along with being filled with enthusiasm. Christian Chapel wants the Bible school to make a difference in children's lives.

HAPPENINGS AT ELM GROVE FWB CHURCH

Deacons

Elm Grove FWB Church recently ordained three new deacons to the Church Deacon Board. The special ordination service was conducted by Dr. David Hines. The new deacons are Gary Evans, Dick Evans, and Ed Chambers.

New Draperies

The YFA has worked hard the last two years to purchase draperies for the fellowship building. They had two sweetheart banquets to raise money. The draperies have been purchased and are very beautiful. We thank each member of this group for their hard work.

Youth To Mexico

J.D. Wade, Julie Cox, and Denise Osborne will be going to Mexico this summer with Harold and Sandra Jones. They have sold donuts, had suppers, auctions, and sold dishes to help raise the money for their trip.

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT
THE DENOMINATION



North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention

The 69th North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention was hosted by the Eastern Convention at Deep Run Church May 9, 1996. The Theme was "More, Please." Scripture reference was 1 Corinthians 11:24 "this do in remembrance of me."

The Deep Run Men's Trio opened the meeting with a music medley. The opening hymn was "More About Jesus."

President Carolyn Jernigan gave the devotion and greetings. Happy Taylor, president of the Eastern District gave the welcome, Joan Little, president of the Central District responded. Announcements and directions were given by Caroline Kennedy, vice president of Deep Run Auxiliary. The president recognized delegates, visitors, and ministers.

Dianne Riley presented special music during the offering.

Teresa Ball, chairman of the Life Membership gave the award to Ruth L. Warrick. The Cragmont Woman's Choir sang several numbers directed by Donna Holland, co-director of the Woman's Conference's. Claudette Lane, president of the Cape Fear District was in charge of the memorial service.

"I Want To Be Like Jesus" was sung by the congregation followed by a break.

The Rev. Scott Sowers brought greetings from the Denominational Ministries and introduced representatives from each. He brought a message which was challenge to do what is required "And then some."

Mary Dudley sang special music, "Share His Love." The Revs. Adrian Grubbs and Scott Sowers invited us to share in Communion, ministers present served the Sacraments. The congregation sang "O To Be Like Thee." Several reports were given which will be in the minutes. An installation of officers was conducted by Faye Bryant from the Pee Dee District.

The benediction and blessing was given by the Rev. Adrian Grubbs. Musicians were Mary Dudley, Director; Organist was Bill Hawkins.

Ruth L. Warrick, Cor. Sect.

SHILOH FWB CHURCH

PINETOWN, NORTH CAROLINA, JUNE 29, 1996

ALBEMARLE UNION MEETING

Opening Session

- 10:00 Pianist Mrs. Lucille Jones
Devotions Rev. H.P. Norman
Welcome Mr. Wilbur Shepherd
Response Rev. Robert May
The Moderator's Address
Recognition of Visiting Ministers
Roll Call of Churches, Offering
Announcements
Prayer Request and Prayer Time

Business Session

- 10:40 Report of Ministers Via Literature
Children's Home • Mount Olive College
FWB Press • Home Missions • Foreign Missions
Cragmont Assembly • Retirement Homes
Minister's Program

Report of Treasurer

Old Business

New Business

Minutes Presented

For Approval

11:00 Morning Worship Service

Hymn

Special Music Host Church
Testimonies

Message Rev. William Mobley

Benediction

Adjournment and Lunch

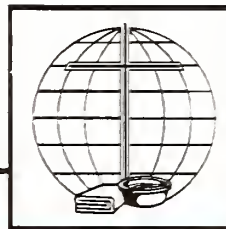
Homecoming Celebrated

Annual homecoming services were celebrated at Core Creek FWB Church in Cove City on Sunday, May 5, 1996. The Rev. Carol Hansley, former Pastor was the guest speaker for the day.

The Rev. Bryant Hines Jr., Pastor welcomed an overflow crowd of friends, family and guests to the service. Known for their fine music program, the choir of Core Creek rendered an inspiring arrangement of "We Will Carry The Torch" and Mrs. Linda McCoy beautifully shared "When He Was On The Cross."

Mrs. Elinor Hawkins led in the traditional memorial service, remembering those who passed away during the past year. The Rev. Hansley, who served Core Creek from October, 1970 through August, 1975 brought an inspiring and challenging message from the Book of Ruth.

Following the service, the traditional "Dinner on the Grounds" was enjoyed by all. And many members enjoyed the time of fellowship with the Rev. and Mrs. Hansley as friendship were renewed and memories were shared.



First Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary Honors Oldest Member

On April 30, 1996, the Woman's Auxiliary, president, Linda Davis open the meeting with a warm welcome and read a poem: Mother's Prayer. She proceeded to tell how special each member was and that we had a very special member with us tonight. Her name was Mrs. Jenny Hayes, whose 89th birthday was on May 1, 1996. A tribute was read as follows about Mrs. Hayes.

Mrs. Hayes is truly an example of "The Fruits of the Spirit." Her love has always been expressed for her family, church, friends, and most of all, for the Lord. The joy she has is always seen in her friendly smile. Mrs. Hayes has a look of peace, whenever you see her. Her patience while she taught all the beginners and others at First Church has always been shown. Her gentleness is a true color of a virtuous woman. Surely goodness has followed her all the days of her life. She has the faith of a mustard seed. Meekness is a quality that she exhibits. Temperance is ranked as a vital Christian characteristic.

Mrs. Hayes, you are truly an example for us to follow. We love you and appreciate all you have done for our Woman's Auxiliary, Sunday school, and our church. Happy 89th Birthday!

Mrs. Hayes was presented a long-stemmed red rose and a collectible Easter egg to add to her collection.

Baby Dedication

On March 10th a
Baby Dedication was held
at First Free Will Baptist in Kinston.
Five Babies were dedicated and
two people were baptised.

Newly Licensed Minister

Brian Davis was presented with his license on April 14, 1996, during the morning services at his home church, First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, by Rev. Wayne King. The Board of Deacons recommended, and the motion was carried on December 13, 1995, that the First FWB Church extend Ministerial Licensing to Brian Davis as an Original Free Will Baptist Minister.

A 1995 graduate of Mount Olive College with a degree in Business Management, Brian returned in the fall to pursue studies in Christian Ministries. He was named the first recipient of the Montie Newsome and Frank Thomas Barnes Scholarship for Ministers at Mount Olive College. The scholarship was endowed by J. Ralph Barnes, of Little Rock FWB Church in Lucama.

He's currently part-time director of Youth Ministries, at Saint Mary's Original FWB Church in New Bern.

Brian Davis is the son of Harold and Linda Davis of Wilson.



PASTOR AVAILABLE

Edmundo Gonzalez
6140 Black Creek Rd
Smithfield, NC 27577
394-4414

PASTOR NEEDED

Whaley's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church at Hargett's Crossroads near Richlands is looking to secure a pastor for their ministry. Please write to: Ronnie Taylor, 2378 Kinston Hwy, Richlands, NC 28574, or telephone Ronnie Taylor at 910-324-4663 or Victor Jones at 910-298-3061.

**Daniel's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Notice of Job Opening – Youth Minister**

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a Christian
- Preferred Free Will Baptist affiliation
- Vibrant, energetic individual who is able to establish good relationships with young people
- Educational training or experience in the field
- Must possess good people skills and be able to work with senior Pastor and the church organizations
- Individual must have a genuine desire to work with youth

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Co-ordinate and participate in the youth activities of the Church. This includes Children's Church (3-8), Cherubs (5-8), AFC (9-13), YFA (13-19), and Bible School (all ages).
- Co-ordinate and conduct Bible studies for the youth of the Church.
- Organize and conduct special projects and activities for the youth of the Church including the Conference activities of the youth.
- Attend and participate in the meetings of the Youth Advisory Board and the Board of Education.
- On occasion, be asked to fill the pulpit in the absence of the Pastor.
- Keep a log of all youth-related activities of the Church.
- Co-ordinate purchasing of all materials for the youth activities of the Church.
- Serve as a staff member of the Recreation Committee of the Church.

- Encourage the Youth of the Church to participate in the Music Program of the Church.
- To continue to develop personal ministry skills.
- Assist the Pastor in visitation as it relates to the young people of the Church and their families.
- To be an example to the Youth and the Congregation of the Church.
- To do all possible to advance the Cause of Christ among young people and to promote the spiritual interest of the Church.
- Perform other duties as may be required by the Official Board of the Church.

RELATIONSHIPS

- This individual will be under the direct supervision of the Pastor and under the general supervision of the Official Board.
- Individual will support the Doctrine, programs and overall emphasis of the Church.

PROCEDURES

- Interested individuals should submit a resume to:
Youth Ministerial Committee
Daniel's Chapel Church
4828 Frank Price Church Road • Wilson, NC 27893
- Resumes will be reviewed and applications extended to selected individuals. Selected individuals will begin interviews by May 15. The Youth Minister will begin work by July 1, 1996. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

1995 FWB Press Report to the Convention

The Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists received the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel that reviewed the reports presented in the 1995 Report Book. The panel checked for compliance with the requirements of the Convention, the accuracy of the report based upon a comparison of the report and the accountant's statements, and problems noted in the process.

I am pleased to share with you that your report was found to be accurate when compared with your accountant's statement, and without any noted accounting problems. Your report included most of the information that was requested; however, your report did not include a budget as required by the Convention. We appreciate the accuracy of your report and your efforts to comply with the requirements established by the Convention.

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



DEEP RUN ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Elwood Hill, Eastern Conference Representative to the State Sunday School Board

"Will your church be alive in 2025?" is the title of our current Bible study topic! The Church at Deep Run has been spreading God's Word since about 1850. In the early days, when the original church burned to the ground, there was still a church meeting on the hill at Deep Run every third Sunday morning for about two years. The preacher brought the Sunday message to church members who sat outdoors on logs instead of pews. Over a hundred and forty years later when the topic of our current Bible study is "Will Your Church Be Alive In 2025?" the people of Deep Run think only one answer and that answer is "absolutely, Yes!"

We owe it to our God as well as to our ancestors to continue to spread God's Word in our community. The congregation of the Deep Run church began a Sunday school building project over six years ago. Even through there were numerous pitfalls and set-backs, the project finally materialized this year and is expected to be completed by late August. Designed as a ten-classroom building with an "upper room" balcony, the building will be used for the education of God's children both on Sunday morning and on other days as needed.

Today there is much competition for church members. It has become necessary for God's church to provide better and better facilities in order to continue to attract new members. A generation ago, a fellowship building, which was also used as a Sunday school classroom building, was "adequate." But today's generation insists upon more "creature comforts" such as air conditioning, bathrooms, carpet, sound systems, and more and more. Congregations are providing those comforts in order to maintain their church population.

The type of available facilities either attracts to or detracts from the work that the individual church attempts to do in its community. The Deep Run church is confident that the addition of a 4550 Sq. Foot classroom building will provide us with the workable space so much needed to provide God's people with the proper atmosphere to teach God's Word and for worship.

The church at Deep Run has been blessed with a group of hard working Christians who function well as a church family. As the church continues to grow with the erection of a new Sunday school complex as shown in the pictures. Our pastor, Adrian Grubbs, leads the way. Every Sunday morning, he leads our Bible study in the topic "Will Your Church Be Alive in 2025?" We are "banking" on the future with our community and our people. God's work must continue throughout the world, but our church family must see that it continues in this community also.

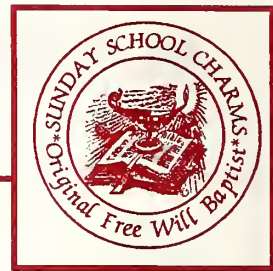
The work that our church is attempting to do is making a statement to the world that we indeed believe that our church at Deep Run will be alive and continuing to spread God's Word in the year 2025 and far into the future.

It is our church family's responsibility to continue to provide the proper facilities for worship for our descendants just as our ancestors worked to provide us with the current facility. Our future is still filled with all of God's promises, but God's promises must be purchased with our love and faith and prayer—and sweat!

"Will Your Church Be Alive In 2025?" of course it will! God will provide the inspiration and the promise of salvation but he expects us to provide the muscle and the sweat. God's promise are alive and well, daily prayer, daily work, daily commitment, daily acceptance of God's direction in our lives and the answer can and will be yes, but only, if we want it to be "YES."

Amen!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



The beginning of the process, pouring the foundation.



The last view of the church as it stood when construction began, a view that will be lost forever, but no regrets.



Pastor Adrian Grubbs with granddaughter, construction underway, walls rising.



Workmen from Jackson builders in Goldsboro putting on the top of the building.



Beginning to look finished, completion date around the end of August.



Four Choice Words For Senior Citizens: Serenity, Grace, Courage, and Wisdom

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other," (Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971).

Serenity

One of the rewards of writing this monthly feature is the comments of readers. During a recent visit, a friend startled me with words that reached my innermost being. "But these are not really the golden years for me. I lived with my husband in the same house for fifty-nine years. He was born and died in the same room, and it was a traumatic experience to sell my home, pack up and move to a new location where I did not know the people."

Months have passed, and I am still pondering the meaning and significance of her words: "But these are not really the golden years for me." With the advancement of the years, we pass irrevocable milestones — experiences that are beyond recall.

In this context of life, how can senior citizens find peace of mind and face the future with a sense of purpose and fulfillment? Finding the answer is not easy; but in my search, the "Serenity Prayer" has taken on new meaning.

Things That Cannot Be Changed

"God, give me the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed."

Sometime ago when I was having some dental work done, I watched a beautiful but obstinate red bird as he kept flying against the window, hitting it harder and harder. After about twenty minutes the bird accepted the fact that the windowpane was real and flew away — bruised, I am sure. Life is like that — there are some parameters with which we have to come to terms.

One of these parameters is age. The date of our birth is fixed; and although we may regard it private, there is no way we can alter it. And with age there are inexorable changes which take place in our bodies and in our minds. Certain health conditions and various diseases knock at our door: heart problems, cancer, arthritis, dental and urological complications, lupus, and diabetes. We don't hear or see as well; we tire more easily; our motor skills decline; and our bodies require more time and attention during the day and longer hours of sleep at night. We be-

come more resistant to change and less resistant to tension and stress.

Beyond the changes which the years bring to our own lives, there may be the permanent illness or death of a husband or wife, son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister.

These events and conditions are an integral part of life, but the choice of how we respond is ours. We can be like the red bird that beat itself against the windowpane until it was bruised, or we can pray, "God, give me the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed."

Things That Should Be Changed

"God, grant me the courage to change the things that should be changed."

There are some things in life that only God can change; but there are other things — important things — which we can change. Let's look at some of the things that are under our control.

Lifestyles that Impact Our Health. In more ways than for which we would like to take responsibility, we are in control of our health. To a large extent, our bodies are what we eat and drink, and it is well-documented that our physical health is improved by appropriate daily physical exercise. Moreover, through annual medical check-ups many diseases, for which there is known treatment in the early stages, can be diagnosed.

Reading. A flabby mind is as hazardous to mental health as a flabby body is to physical health. Anyone who can read has the capacity to improve his/her mental health. A person who can read and does not is no better than one who cannot. Although our country is inundated with printed trash and filth, there are plenty of good books, including the Bible, for those who want to enrich their minds. Just as the body is largely what we eat and drink, our minds are primarily what we read, hear, see, and think. The choice is ours.

Our Relationship with God. None of us is wise or strong enough to overcome the problems of human life on our

own. The Eternal God of history and the universe has given us the power to determine our relationship with Him. God made our wills free because love cannot be forced. With the love God has declared through Jesus Christ, no one has to carry burdens through life heavier than he/she can bear. God wants to live in us; but the choice is ours.

Attitudes. Our attitude is the way we respond to people and circumstances. We cannot control what life hurls at us nor can we control what other people say about us or sometimes do to us; but we alone are responsible for our attitude. In his book, *Man's Search For Meaning*, Viktor E. Frankl, a victim in a German concentration camp, describes how the prisoners were stripped of both their possessions and human dignity, and then he comments, "...everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way," (Beacon , Boston, 1992, 75). Our attitude is our choice.

Our Values. It is within our power to establish our values, to determine what is most important in life for us. We live by our priorities, and no one else can determine our priorities for us. The choice is ours.

When life is not what we want it to be, our prayer can

be, "God, give me the courage to change the things that should be changed: my lifestyle, what I read, my relationship with you, my attitude, and my values."

Wisdom

"God, grant me the wisdom to distinguish what cannot be changed from what should be changed."

There are times when life bears down upon us with such force and intensity that we realize that our own strength and wisdom are inadequate. Experiences of this kind fill us with fear, but it is only when we know that we must look beyond ourselves for help that we learn the meaning of God's grace. Not even God has a solution to the problems of human life apart from suffering; and it is in the acceptance of this truth that we learn more fully who God is and become grateful for His amazing grace.

We can free ourselves of fear not by being in control of everything ourselves but by trusting Him who is in control. Serenity comes when life carries us beyond ourselves to the ultimate Power of the universe and we trust Him to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

(The comments and suggestions of readers are invited.)

Max Lucado Mini Books

Trusting More Worrying Less

Your Place At God's Table

31 Days of Blessings

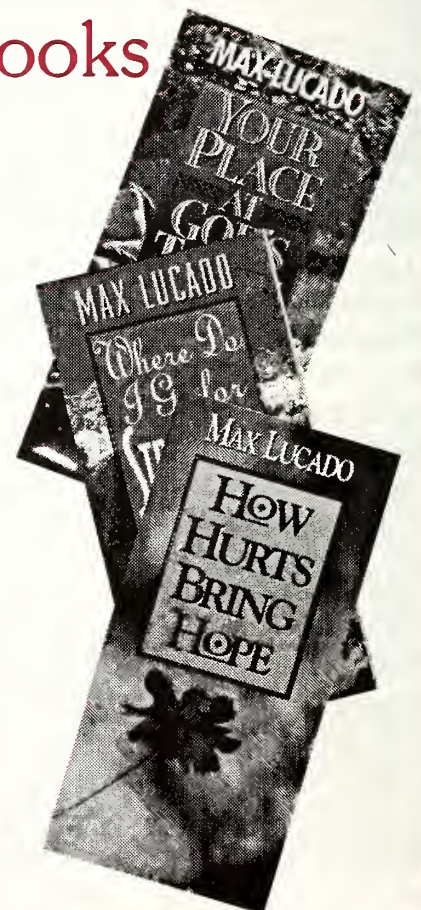
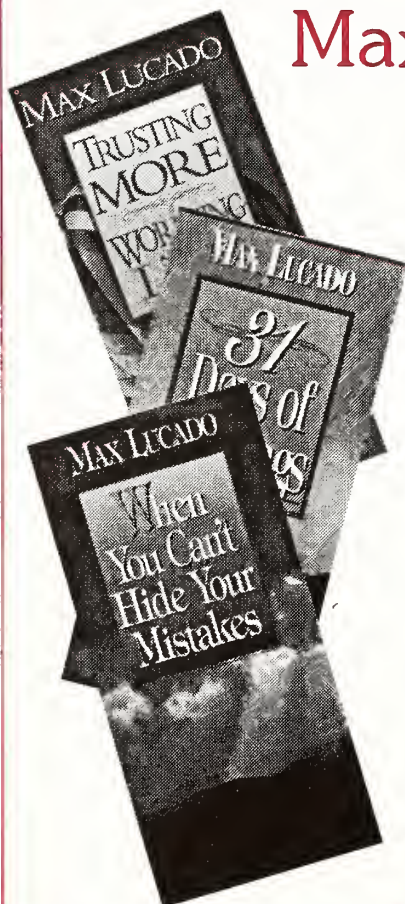
Where Do I Go For
Strength?

When You Can't Hide Your
Mistakes

How Hurts Bring Hope

\$2.99 each

These Books can be found at
all area Bible and Bookstores
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, &
Wilson



Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



BLUE RIBBON PANEL REPORT

The report of the Blue Ribbon Panel was received by the Executive Committee on April 23, 1996. The Panel was a special committee composed of accounting and business professionals who reviewed the reports presented at the 1995 session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The Panel checked the reports for compliance with the instructions provided by the Convention and for the accuracy of the reports, based upon a comparison of the reports and the accountants' statements.

The Panel noted in their report any of the requested information that was not included for each ministry and any difference between the accountant's statement and the report in the book, and specific accounting problems they saw relative to each ministry.

The report stated, "While there are some problems with the reporting process, it appears to the Panel that those reporting are trying to comply with the requirements established. Some of the problems relate to a lack of understanding of accounting processes. One major problem is connected to the time lag between due date and receipt of the accountants' statements."

The Executive Committee notified each ministry of the findings of the Panel relative to its report. They also adopted recommendations made by the Panel to improve the reporting process and to bring the reporting requirements in line with proper accounting procedures.

The Executive Committee, upon the advice of the Panel, has secured the services of accounting students, supervised by an accounting professor, in the review and preparation of the Convention's financial statements. They have also put into place a review process for future reports which are to be given to the Convention.

The Boards of Directors of our ministries were also helped by the recent Board Development Conference which focused on financial statements. The new reporting requirements will be clearer and more uniform. Some of the problems related to past reports were connected to the requests of the Executive Committee.

LAY MINISTRY SEMINAR

Over 40 people, representing 13 Original Free Will Baptist churches, invested a Saturday morning in a training seminar on lay ministry recently. The group spent from 9 a.m. to noon on April 27 learning about the biblical basis of lay ministry and how to make it happen in the local church,

Pastors and laity participated together in the multi-media presentation. There was a lot of support that flowed between pastors and the members of their flock, all of whom traveled to Greenville to be a part of the learning experience. It was apparent that we are all on the same team.

Comments from participants included:

Pastors

"I learned the importance of my lay people."

"I learned that I need to learn not just to delegate, but to do a better job of equipping."

"I make a commitment to God and myself to stop doing everything myself and to begin to equip others."

"I will show lay people how to do some things that I have been doing so I can do what they cannot do."

"I will better equip our congregation for service and give them the freedom to do it."

Lay Participants

"I learned I have a part in God's ministry."

"I learned duties that are the responsibility of laity that I thought were the duty of the pastor."

"I learned how to effectively support our pastor and each other."

"I learned that pastors should not carry the whole load in the church. Lay people should be involved."

"I will approach my responsibility as a lay person with renewed vigor and enthusiasm."

"I will try in 1996 to start one ministry in God's church."

We would be happy to arrange to repeat the seminar in your area. Please call me if you are interested (Scott Sowers: 919-746-4963).

BOARD DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

There were 49 registered participants in the first annual Board Development Conference held at the Hampton Inn in Kinston on March 29 and 30. There were representatives from eleven of the Convention's boards and committees. All of the directors of the denominational ministries participated.

Conference evaluation forms reveal that 41% of the participants rated the Conference as excellent and the remaining 59% gave it the second highest rating, good. While most board members reported that they learned to understand financial statements, others reported learning about the responsibility of being a board member. One participant stated, "The information was very good. [It is] material that can be used in our meeting. [It] gave me a better understanding of [the] financial statement and [my] personal responsibility."

Special thanks are extended to Michelle Fordham, who handled the logistics of the Conference; ministry directors, who encouraged their board members to participate *and* who attended themselves; and to the board members who attended.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 1996 Annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Churches is rapidly approaching. The dates for this year's Convention are:

September 10
Night of Evangelism
September 11-12
Annual Session
September 11
Missions Rally



KINGS DOMINION

**Original Free Will Baptist
FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY DAY**
Saturday, August 17, 1996

*"Come to the Place Where
Fun Is Paramount!"*

Fun for the Whole Family. Special Discount Tickets!

Blockbuster rides and one-of-a-kind attractions.

Stunning shows that will dazzle your family.

Wet and wild water fun for everyone.

Two special areas where kids are treated as kings.

And a country cookout.

Plus...

**Celebration of Worship (from 6 to 8 p.m.
at Kingswood Amphitheatre)**

*Pastors, youth leaders, parents, young people, be on the lookout
for more information about this fun-filled day of activities
planned for Original Free Will Baptists at King's Dominion.
(For more information, call the Headquarters [919-746-4963].)*

Congratulations

Nell Jernigan was named manager of the New Bern
Bible and Bookstore.

Darren Davenport was named manager of the Ayden
Bible and Bookstore.

CONVENTION NOMINATION PROCEDURES

At the January 23, 1996, meeting of the Executive Committee, changes were made in the process of nominating people for vacancies. As a result, the Nominating Committee was appointed at the April 23, 1996, Executive Committee meeting. An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 1996 Convention is being made to the boards and committees of the Convention, churches, ministers, and in *The Free Will Baptist*, inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the name, church, occupation, education, and a single paragraph describing qualifications and/of gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the recommendation. Recommendations will be received through July 1, 1996. The Nominating Committee will make its decisions, contact persons to be nominated, and prepare a written report for inclusion in the Convention Report Book. In the event the Nominating Committee decides to nominate someone not recommended by a board or director, the director will be consulted and the decision will be discussed.

Vacancies to be filled at the 1996 Session of the Convention are as follow:

Officers

President (1998)
Vice President (1998)

Executive Committee

Cape Fear Conference Representative (1998)
Central Conference Representative (1998)
Eastern Conference Representative (1998)

Children's Home Board

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2000

Church Finance Association Representative

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1997

Cragmont Assembly Stock Representatives

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 1999

Foreign Missions

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation Representative

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1997

Home Missions

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2003

Minister's Program

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

Mount Olive College

5 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002

Retirement Homes

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2001

Board of Trustees

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

Chaplain's Commission

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

Commission of OFWB College Student Fellowships

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

Historical Commission

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

Layman's League Board

4 vacancies with terms ending in the year 1999

Sunday School Board

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 1999

Recommendation Form

I (We) would like to recommend _____ for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the following vacancy: _____

Church Membership: _____ (Conference) _____

Occupation: _____

Education: _____

Qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position:

Person or group making the recommendation: _____ Date: _____

(Mail form to: Nominating Committee, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Forms should be postmarked no later than July 1, 1996.)

NEED SOME PRINTING DONE?

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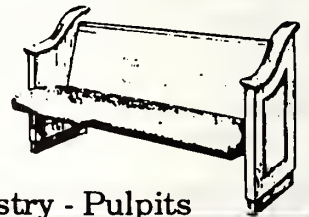
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*Happy
Father's Day*

From the Free Will Baptist Press

and

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Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, & Wilson

Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

Who should we be saying "Happy Father's Day" to on this June 16, 1996. Yes, of course to our earthly fathers. But, how about one even more important than that? How about our Heavenly Father?

Yes both sacrifice for us everyday. Dads are always there to try and pick up the pieces when we fail. They try and fix whatever they can whenever we can not.

Our Heavenly Father does even more. He offers us the chance for a life more abundant with Him. This sacrifice goes above and beyond what any human on earth could ever do.

To the fathers of children today, look at the true role model of what a "Dad" should be.

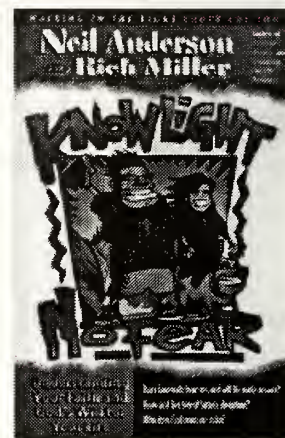
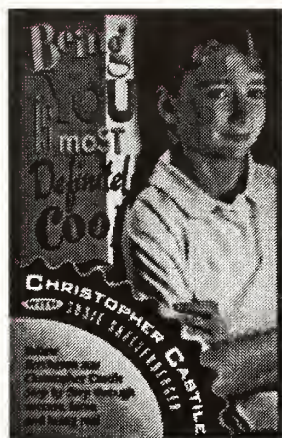
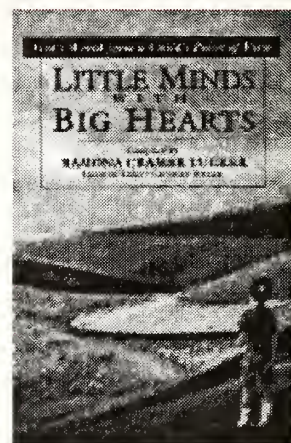
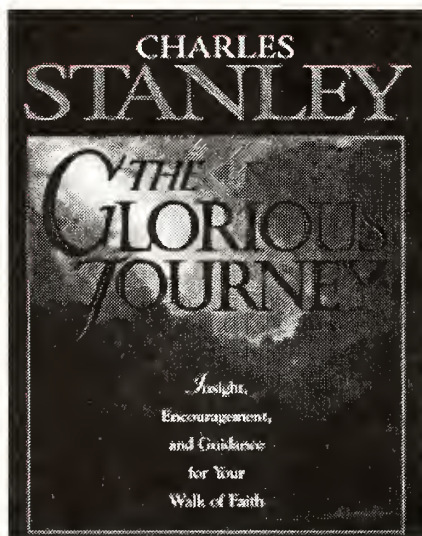
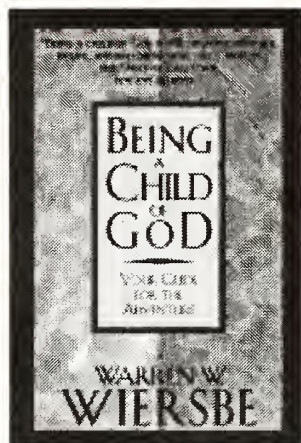
Yes, Jesus Christ is our Heavenly Father, our friend, and our Saviour. Someone we know intimately and spiritually. We can call on Him at all times and He will answer.

Happy Father's Day, Dad, and to you Jesus. Not just on June 16th but everyday.

In His Service,

Mary

New Releases



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Bible and Bookstore
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The Free Will Baptist

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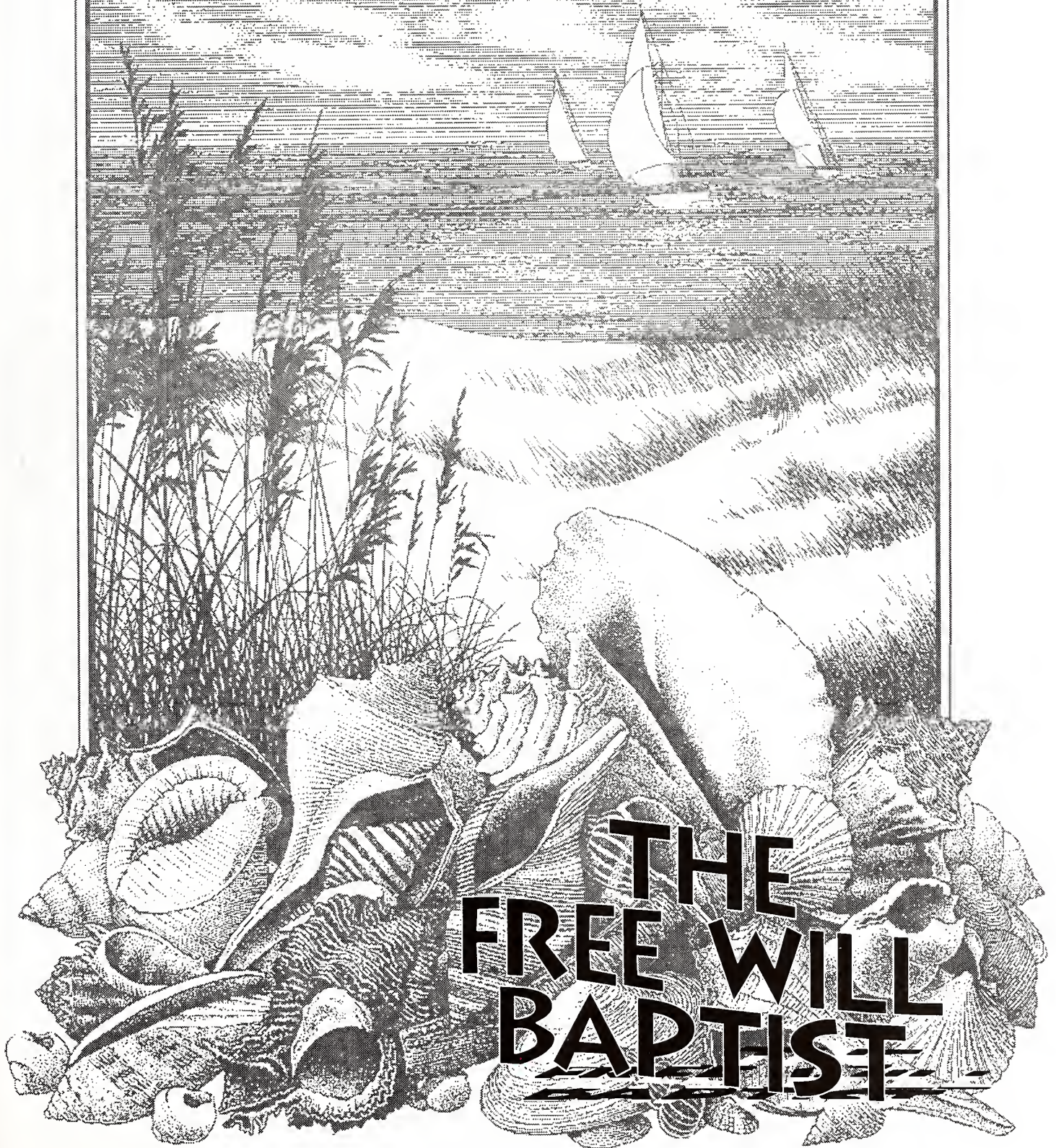
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**THE
FREE WILL
BAPTIST**

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Convention Promotion
Month

July 1s
Christian Education
Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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~~DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES~~



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

JULY'S THEME IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mount Olive College's mission is to establish, maintain, and operate a four-year college for the Christian education of men and women. In the college's literature, the words Christian living, Christian ideals, and Christian values are used over and over again. These are important words that emphasize why Mount Olive College was established by the Free Will Baptist Church and describe how the college is different and distinctive from other private liberal arts institutions of higher learning.

In recognition that the July issue focuses on Christian education, we asked a question — "How is Christian education best accomplished?" — of key individuals connected with the college. We think you will find their responses to be interesting and thought - provoking.

Ms. Dianne B. Riley, Director of Admissions

"The main task of Christian education is to teach the truth about God with all the implications arising from God's nature and activity, in such a way that the learner will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, will become a member of the Body of Christ, and will live in the Christian way." Randolph Crump Miller

Christianity is the life of a community. Education is how the people of God gain insight into their mission and purpose. Education is the work of that community — working together to the reconciling mission to which we are all called. It is the vehicle by which God helps us grow in grace.

Christian education is best accomplished by the "whole person" focusing on the growth and continued renewal of children, youth, and adults involving the entire church community and its ministries to develop mature disciples. Mount Olive College is one of the ministries that aids in equipping persons to carry out their missions.

Ms. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support

Christian education includes more than formal teaching. It begins at birth, with the parents molding and shaping that life. It involves family, friends, church, and school. Many people think of only the academic area when one mentions Christian education, but it involves much more than academics. It is the total development of becoming, recognizing that God is our Creator, and He has a plan for each individual He creates. To truly bring about Christian education, all of these areas must be recognized as necessary and allowed to develop to their fullest with the help of persons who are committed to the Christian faith.

The Reverend Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister

Christian education has its distinctive character and purpose in relation to God, and that a person's highest purpose and destiny is to know God and serve Him in a faith relationship through Jesus Christ. Christian education seeks to cultivate that inquiring mind in which God is recognized as the ultimate source of all truth and the task of Christian education is to see the creative and active integration of faith and learning, of faith and culture, knowing that all truth is God's truth, whenever and wherever it is found. Therefore, Christian education has at its center the perspective of one's faith in God, and one's life will then be guided by what he believes about God and His purpose for humanity.

Ms. Dorothy C. Whitley, Academic Dean

Christian education is best accomplished, I believe, in an environment where the basic Christian values of kindness, service, community, and ethical living are practiced daily in one-to-one relationships. I believe, with John Ruskin, that "The entire object of true education is to make people not merely to do the right things, but to enjoy them; not merely industrious, but to love industry; not merely learned, but to love knowledge, not merely pure, but to love purity; not merely just, but to hunger and thirst after justice." The best way to accomplish this true (Christian) education is by example.

Dr. K. David Hines, Chair, Department of Religion

In my judgment, Christian education is much more than simply requiring classes in biblical studies. It is more than having chapel services on campus. Christian education is best accomplished when Christian principles and attitudes are pervasive in all that the college does. At Mount Olive College, our mission is Christian education. Therefore, each action of the college in admissions, advancement, academic programming, student affairs, athletics, and alumni affairs must seek to incarnate this mission.

"Christian" defined simply means "like Christ." It therefore seems to me that we should be in the business of fostering "Christlikeness" in all we do. This means that students will be challenged to excellence and cared for. This means integrity's being modeled in all relationships. This means academic intensity as we become seekers of truth.

In summary, "Christian education" is not a little bit of religion being added to a liberal arts program of study. It is the foundation of each action and decision we make. For Christian education to be what we do, it must first be who we are.

The Reverend Jefferson D. Daughtry, Trustee

Christian education is the total development of students in an environment nurtured by Christian values. It brings together the goals for career, living, and serving God. When students graduate from a Christian college, they should be trained adequately for their chosen profession and be able to successfully live in today's society as productive Christian citizens and family members. This is best accomplished with a competent faculty and staff which serve as examples before the students.

Dr. J. William Byrd, President

The Scriptures mandate that God's people will exercise responsible stewardship over His creation. God's highest creative act is manifest in the creation of humankind. The distinguishing characteristic that sets humans apart from other creatures is the intellectual ability that permits growth and understanding and is the source of the human ability to respond to God. Higher education in an environment nurtured by Christian values is a call to service and a rise to meet the responsibility of caring for God's people. Intellectual growth is the window through which God's light shines.

Dr. Eugene Sumner, Trustee

Christian higher education is best achieved when faculty who share Christian values allow their faith to be reflected in the quality of their relationships with students. Christian values are best learned when taught in the classroom and implemented through student-teacher relationships. The distinguishing characteristics of an institution of Christian higher education should be in the respect and dignity with which students are treated by all college personnel, especially faculty.

The Third Annual
James A. Evans Lecture

Theme: Caring For The Caregiver
For Ministers and Their Wives

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Vernon E. Wall

Monday • August 5 • 9:30 am
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center • Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Schedule of Events:

Registration (\$10 for minister, \$16 for minister and spouse, includes lunch)	9:00 am
Session One: The Minister	9:30 am
Break	10:45 am
Session Two: The Minister and His Family	11:00 am
P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon	12:00 noon
In the Hennessee Room of the Murphy Regional Center	
Discussion and Dialogue with Dr. Wall	1:30 pm
Session Three: The Minister and His Congregation	2:00 pm

About the lecturer...

Dr. Wall is the owner/director of Canterbury Counseling Service in Wilson, North Carolina, and has been in private practice in pastoral counseling and Marriage and Family therapy since 1979. Prior to this Dr. Wall served as a hospital chaplain from 1955 until 1979.

Dr. Wall received his baccalaureate degree from Wake Forest University. His Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees were received from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. In addition to these studies, Dr. Wall has completed units in Clinical Pastoral Education from the Baptist Hospital School of Pastoral Care in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Married to Betty H. Wall, a retired schoolteacher, the Walls are the parents of three adult children. They reside in Wilson, North Carolina, where they are members of the First Baptist Church.

About the James A. Evans Lecture...

The James A. Evans Lecture is sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina. Through sponsoring this program, Dr. Morris is seeking to foster the pastoral qualities he observed in the Reverend Evans when he served Dr. Morris' home church, Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church in the Nahunta community of Wayne County. Each August the Evans Lecture will bring a significant speaker to address issues related to pastoral ministry.

The program for the day will also feature the P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award which is sponsored by Dr. Morris in memory of his great-grandfather. This award will be presented during the noon luncheon.

For additional information, contact Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (919-658-2502).

REAGAN SINGLETON

It's funny how things turn out. She said that she would never go to Mount Olive College. It was where mom and dad went! Now she is the quintessential Mount Olive College student.

Reagan Blair Singleton is a junior majoring in human resource development. Although her parents were originally from Kinston, she has lived her entire life in Beulaville where she graduated from East Duplin High School.

Her parents are Chris and Vickie Singleton, and Reagan has a 15-year-old brother, Zachary. Her father is the Reverend Chris Singleton, pastor of the Beulaville FWB Church.

"Mount Olive College was not my first choice," Reagan said. "My mom made me visit."

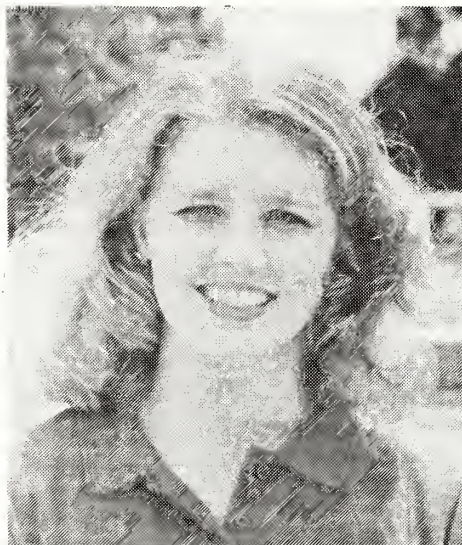
Realizing Mount Olive was her parent's alma mater and affiliated with the Free Will Baptist Church, Reagan figured that she would visit the campus to satisfy her mother, and then carry on with business of deciding where she really wanted to go to school.

"I was really surprised when I came here," Reagan said. "Everyone was so nice. I met a lot of students and professors who were all very friendly."

Reagan said that she spent some time with a friend at a much larger university and realized that she wouldn't be as happy in the large impersonal environment.

After being at Mount Olive College for two years, Reagan said that she has "no regrets" about her choice, even though she admits having said she would never come here.

"It is a small college where you have a better chance to grow," Reagan said. "Classes are small.



You know your professors because you see and talk with them out of class, at games, and around campus. You get to know them as people, not just instructors."

Reagan said that Mount Olive's affiliation with the Free Will Baptist Church is an advantage, one not offered at many other colleges.

"When I was growing up, I went to church because my family went," Reagan said. "Now that I'm here, I go on my own."

"Some students argue about the requirement to take two religion courses," Reagan said. "I think it's good because it helps students figure things out for themselves."

Even though Reagan had a strong Christian upbringing, she said that she is now beginning to articulate her own personal beliefs, values, and ethics. She's no longer a child blindly accepting what people tell her.

In addition to maturing spiritually, Reagan said that she is growing intellectually. She admits now that she only did enough to get by in high school, bring home B's and C's. Her horizons didn't extend beyond high school.

Now Reagan is looking beyond

school. It's just now hitting her that school years are a stop along the way in the journey of life.

"I see a lot of my friends are leaving," Reagan said. "And I wonder what in the world is going on! Of course, I know. They are graduating, getting jobs, going to other schools, and generally carrying on with their lives."

Reagan sees herself on the verge of passing some milestone in her life. She speculates that in five years she could be married, working as a personnel specialist, and living somewhere else in North Carolina, possibly Raleigh.

In the meantime, Reagan is making her presence felt at Mount Olive College. She was recently elected secretary of an active Student Government Association. And she continues to serve as a College Ambassador and Resident Advisor. As an ambassador she serves as escort and host for official visitors to the college. As an "RA" she is responsible for maintaining order and for serving as a peer counselor for fellow students in on-campus residence halls.

While it is an honor and a vote of confidence to be selected for these positions, both require a fair amount of service and work. Reagan said that serving as Resident Advisor was especially enlightening as a result of some of the problems and issues she encountered.

Reagan likes Mount Olive College so much, she is spending the summer here. Actually, she is taking a tough anatomy and physiology course during the summer term to get it out of the way and not have to deal with it while taking other courses during the fall or spring term.

Mount Olive's reputation concerns Reagan. "Some people think we have low standards and are not competitive," Reagan said. "I wish other people could see what I see."

Reagan said that some of her friends left Mount Olive College after two years because they wanted something bigger, other academic programs, or didn't like the rules. She attributes part of the reason for their departure to the "grass being greener on the other side of the fence."

In any event, Reagan is staying the course — happy to be at Mount Olive, and Mount Olive is happy with her. "The thing that stands out about Reagan Singleton is that she is the prototypical Mount Olive College student growing and maturing before our very eyes," said Karen Van Norman, Dean of Student Development. "She contributes a great deal to the quality of student life by her involvement in campus activities. And I'm especially pleased to have her as a Resident Advisor for a second year."

Who knows — maybe someday Reagan will have a daughter, and maybe she might suggest to this daughter that she consider going to Mount Olive College!

"No way, Mom!"

"Humor me. Just take a look."

"Well, OK, but just a look..."

17 FREE WILL BAPTIST AWARDED DEGREES

On May 11, 1996 Mount Olive College conducted its 42nd Commencement conferring degrees on 235 students. Among the graduating class were the following Free Will Baptists:

Matthew S. Bircher, Bachelor of Science in Recreation, from Shelby, OH, and a member of Core Creek FWB Church.

Philip E. Carden, Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Development, from Mount Olive, NC, and a member of White Oak FWB Church.

Leland G. Cox, Jr., Bachelor of Science in Biology, from Cove City, NC and a member of Wintergreen FWB Church.

Julie A. Craft, Bachelor of the Arts in Biology, from Wilson, NC, and a member of Milbournie FWB Church.

Brandy E. Creech, Bachelor of Science in Business Management, from Kenly, NC, and a member of Stancil's Chapel FWB Church.

Darren E. Davenport, Bachelor of Science in Church Ministries, from Winterville, NC, and a member of Reedy Branch FWB Church.

Etheridge T. Davis, Bachelor of Science in Business Management, from Newport, NC, and a member of Holly Springs FWB Church.

Katina M. Holmes, Bachelor of Science in Business Management, from Wilson, NC, and a member of Milbournie FWB Church.

David A. Howell, Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Management, from Goldsboro, NC, and a member of Watery Branch FWB Church.

Bobby K. Johnston, Bachelor of Applied Science in Religion, from Dudley, NC, and a member of Zion FWB Church in Blakely, Georgia, and pastor White Oak Grove FWB Church.

Michael E. Maguire, Bachelor of Science in Management & Organization Development, from Dover, NC, and a member of Pilgrim's Home FWB Church.

Chris P. Markuson, Sr., Bachelor of Science in Management & Organization Development, from Clayton, NC, and a member of Yelverton FWB Church.

William B. Matthews, Bachelor of Science in Recreation, from Goldsboro, NC, and a member of Stoney Creek FWB Church.

George M. Moore, Bachelor of Science in Recreation, from Farmville, NC, and a member of Aspen Grove FWB Church.

Sharon B. Phillips, Bachelor of Science in Business Management & Organization Development, from Ayden, NC, and a member of Hull Road FWB Church.

Kimberly A. Rains, Bachelor of Science in Recreation, from Kenly, NC, and a member of Rains Crossroads FWB Church.

Harvey L. Tripp, Jr., Bachelor of Science in Recreation, from New Bern, NC, and a member of Gospel Light FWB Church.

FREE WILL BAPTISTS NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S AND DEAN'S LISTS

Academic Dean Dorothy C. Whitley announced recently the names of students on the President's and Dean's lists as a result of their academic performance during the 1996 spring term. The President's List honors students who are full-time and earned a 4.0 grade point average — all A's — during the spring term. The Dean's List honors full-time students who earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher — all A's and B's with no C's.

Among the students who achieved academic honor during the recently completed spring term are the following Free Will Baptists:

President's List

Harvey Tripp, Jr.	Gospel Light FWB
William Matthews	Stoney Creek FWB
Donna V. Neal	Daniels Chapel FWB

Dean's List

Leland Cox, Jr.	Wintergreen FWB
Julie Wetherington	Gethsamene FWB
Heather Lanier	Beulaville FWB
DeLois Loftin	Harrell's Chapel FWB
Martin Brock	Everett Chapel FWB
Sara Parker	Bethel FWB
Rhett Green	Stoney Creek FWB
Julia Balazsi	Little Rock FWB

A HISTORY OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

Dr. Michael Pelt, who retired in May 1994 after 37 years on the faculty of Mount Olive College, has been busy preparing a manuscript entitled "A History of Original Free Will Baptists." The manuscript is scheduled to be published by the Mount Olive College Press later this year. It is hoped that this publication will be finished prior to the 1996 session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in September.

Dr. Pelt has long had a deep interest in the history of the denomination. For the last 20 years, he has taught a course at the college on the history, doctrine, and polity of the Original Free Will Baptist Church. His book will be a more comprehensive treatment of the denomination's history than has so far been available. If the schedule is met, copies of the book will be available at the Convention in September.

Information about the book's availability, how to order it, and the price will be published in the *Free Will Baptist* in an upcoming issue.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES FOR MINISTERS

For some time individuals who are preparing for ordination into the Christian ministry have requested that the college offer courses through alternative delivery methods. The college has been hesitant to develop such courses because of our conviction that the classroom environment affords the best medium for collegiate instruction. However, many who are now preparing for the ministry are adults with jobs and families. For many, enrolling in classes at Mount Olive College is virtually an impossibility. Since part of our institutional purpose is to provide an educational opportunity for those preparing for the ministry, we have created Independent Studies for Ministers.

These courses are available only to those either working in or preparing for a church-related vocation and who intend to major in either Church Ministries or Religion. The application process for this program includes submitting a two-to-three page writing samples on one of the following topics: 1. My Call to the Christian Ministry, or 2. The Mission of the Church. This samples is to indicate that the applicant has the necessary writing skills to successfully complete the courses in this program.

The tuition for these courses will be the same as the regular tuition rates for part-time students. In addition to tuition, an administrative fee of \$50.00 will be assessed. Students enrolled in Independent Studies for Ministers may apply for part-time ministerial scholarships to assist with tuition.

The courses currently offered through this service are:

- a. Church Growth and Evangelism
- b. Systematic Theology
- c. Pastoral Ministry
- d. New Testament
- e. Old Testament
- f. Life and Letters of Paul
- g. Life and Teaching of Jesus
- h. Christian Ethics

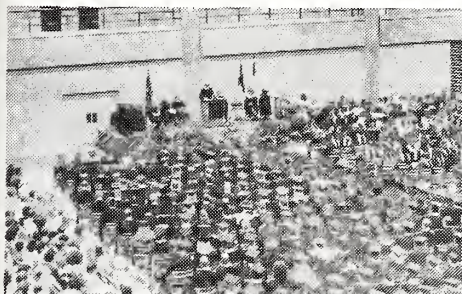
To receive additional information on these programs or other services of the Department of Religion, contact Dr. K. David Hines, Religion Department Chair, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, North Carolina 28365.

Mount Olive College

Forty-Second Commencement Graduation Exercise

May the Eleventh • College Hall • Ten-thirty in the Morning

Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-six



More than 2,000 people— students, faculty, families, and friends — gathered in College Hall for graduation exercises — quite possibly College Hall's largest audience for any event.



Mr. Hanson R. Malpass, Class of 1967, was the graduation speaker. Mr. Malpass is recently retired from the American Foreign Service, U.S. Department of State, where he served in diplomatic posts throughout the world.

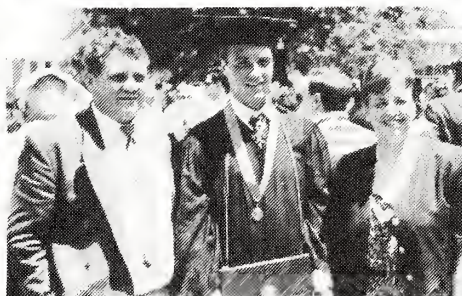
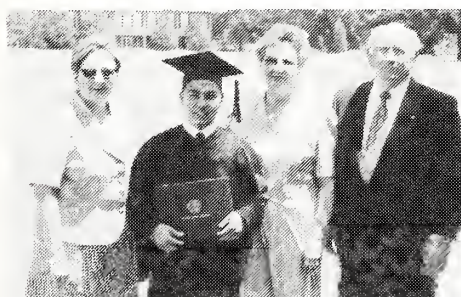


Ms. Amanda J. Parrish, president of the Class of 1996, welcomed guests and read from Scripture.



During graduation, Sonya F. McCoy, assistant professor of business, was honored for excellence in teaching. Here she is flanked by her parents, Mr. Billy Ray McCoy and Mrs. Elsie McCoy.

In the moments following the recessional, recent graduates still in cap and gown, proudly show their hard-earned diplomas and accept congratulations, hugs and kisses from loved ones.



RETIREMENT HOMES SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR

At the May 21st meeting of the Retirement Homes Board, the Rev. Walter Sutton tendered his resignation as Director of the Retirement Homes ministry. His resignation will become effective August 21, 1996. Due to his resignation, the Retirement Homes Board appointed a search committee to begin seeking his successor.

The committee consists of the Revs. James Joyner, Harry Jones, Sr., and Mike Ledbetter. The committee will receive resumes through July 30, 1996. Please send resumes to the Rev. James Joyner at PO Box 486, Kenly, NC 27542.

All resumes will be kept confidential and the final decision will be made by the Retirement Homes Board of the Convention. Please be much in prayer for the search committee, the Retirement Homes Board, and the decisions they will be making in the coming months.



FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

On May 21, 1996, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home held its annual School Awards Banquet. This is an opportunity for our children to be recognized for their achievements. The evening began with dinner and special music by Enjoli and Allison. The children's choir also performed a few spirituals under the leadership of Ms. Cyndi Bachara. Mr. Wesley Alford of Education Talent Search presented certificates to our children for their participation in the program. Ms. Bachara presented certificates to the elementary graduates. Mrs. Celinda Barnes presented campus awards. There was one graduating senior this year. Ms. Cherly Cobb presented the High School Graduate Award and plaque to Amanda. After the presentation Amanda gave an emotional senior speech and played the song "Because You Loved Me." Mr. James Johnson, Director of Child Care, gave closing remarks and his appreciation to all the children for a successful school year. Mr. Donald Batchlor closed the evening with prayer. Each child received a certificate for completion of the school year. Awards were presented in each of the following categories and winners received a certificate and T-shirt.



Amanda Tart, Graduating Senior

Extra Curricular Achiever-Elementary
Extra Curricular Achiever-Jr. High
Extra Curricular Achiever-Sr. High
Citizenship Award-Elementary
Citizenship Award-Jr. High
Citizenship Award-Sr. High
Most Studious
Most Improved on Campus
Best Campus Worker
Most Improved in School
Most Improved Overall
Most Athletic Male
Most Athletic Female
Best History Grades
Best Science Grades
Best Math Grades
Best English Grades

Adrian
Kenyetta
Enjoli
Steven
Crystal
Jill
Eman
Alexix, Allison
Sarah
Kim
Amanda
Billy
Enjoli
LaFrey
Enjoli
Disheka
Allison

On May 15, 1996, members of the Westside Woman's Auxiliary and Pastor Jeff Daughtry visited the Children's Home. Gary Lee talked with the group about the Children's Home and the Genesis House emergency shelter. After his presentation the group had open discussion and asked questions. Following the presentation the group toured the new office addition, the newly renovated Central cottage and Whitley Center. Before departing they presented cleaning supplies and donations. We say Thank You to Westside FWB for your time and gifts to the Children's Home. Westside is located in Kinston.



Pastor, Jeff Daughtry and members of Westside Woman's Auxiliary

A Miracle Indeed!

by Dr. E.M. Lall

It was a fatalful day, Thursday May 16, 1996, when myself and Director-Treasurer Pramod March left in my old car No. USE/5356 with a driver at 6:00 am to inspect Matkhera School in the District of Rampur to assess the kind of renovation and development it needs before July, 1996 when the school re-opens. As I left home, I had an intuition that the car would meet with an accident and I would sustain a head injury. I thought maybe the trip should be rescheduled for the next day. At the same time I knew God was with us because we were doing His work. All of these thoughts were on my mind on the way to school.

We travelled the majority of the way by the National Highway. As we turned off to go to Bilaspur town, where it is only 46 kilometers (28½ miles) to our school, our car was hit by a loaded speeding truck and pushed about 21 feet into a ditch between a huge tree and a pond. As it touched the uneven ground

it overturned twice. After we got out of the car, the villiagers turned the car upright. The driver had a slight scratch on his leg. Pramond had a few minor cuts and I was hurt on the right part of the forehead, bleeding from the right nostril which subsequently subsided. In fact all those who saw the accident said that it was a miracle from God that we were all alive. All this happened in a moment. Usually, in such an accident fire breaks out in the car. We had a really narrow escape indeed and we thanked the Lord for saving us. The car was pulled out with a crane to be brought to Bareilly.

The Word of God as contained in the Bible regarding security of believers was well-experienced by us all. The entire Trinity is involved in the safe-keeping of Christians. As in 1 Peter 1:5 "Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."



The car was completely turned over and the villagers turned it upright.



I met with a car accident on 5/16 and attended office on 5/18 the full day.

Worship Service in Cebu City

by Dario Basingil



Last January 7, 1996 when I was in Cebu City, Sister Faith Perocillo invited me to speak to the El Shaddai Free Will Baptist Church congregation. I also served the Lord's Supper. This was followed by a child dedication service by Pastor Shem. Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 19:14.

NEWSLETTER FROM INDIA AND NEPAL

by Dr. E. M. Lall

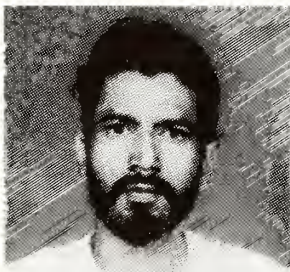
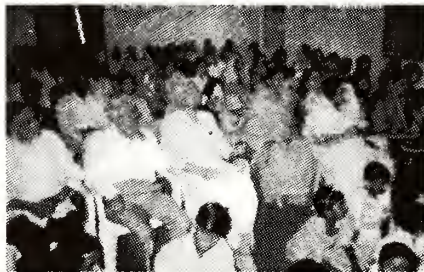
The leadership for promoting evangelistic fervor, generating necessary zeal for sharing the gospel and Christian experiences and imparting an understanding of the techniques of doing all this and at the same time helping the churches to be spiritual strongholds, has long been my vision.

The work of the church in both these countries is speedily growing in all spheres so much so that at times it becomes difficult to keep pace with. However, the Lord enables us to be effective in the task ahead of us.



We have four large Provinces (States) in our country. They are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. Our church exists in these three states. I made a ten-day tour

by train and public bus to Madhya Pradesh about 1500 miles from here and received a congregation at Malanjkhanda, District Balaghat with a membership of about 150 people in the church on April 28, 1996. The congregation has their own beautiful church building and had promised me to co-operate in part by supporting their Pastor. My touring around Malanjkhanda convinced me of greater potential for Christian service. There is vast opportunity of mass evangelization. I also visited a few families and could understand their feelings of being unreached. My visit to Jabalpur another major town of the state challenged my heart to evangelizing people according to our faith.



We have already prepared our Minister — designated Raja Joseph, who has been directed to visit Malanjkhanda to acquaint himself with the congregation there. He will stay with them for two or three weeks in the Parsonage they have provided and return for ordination. He will then return with his family to work there. This may prove to be a good center of

our church work.

Our church has made it a precedent to expound the Life of



Jesus Christ, especially His passions for saving mankind from perishing. This follows from Palm Sunday when processions are taken out in public with placards and practical

scenes, which attract the people who of the facts. This appears to be a good witness causing anxiety to the unreached until they know the truth. It does challenge some who come to His fold.

Our Bible Training Program is featured every year after Easter. It ran April 13–17, 1996 wherein 54 ministers, deacons and laity participated. They were fully equipped with their needs and everyone was tested of their competence in their stead. All had the opportunity of learning, preaching and getting over their laxity and shortcomings.

It is a unique program which will be extended for three more days next year and a partial support for the same shall be raised by our congregations. This has been agreed upon by every minister and deacon. We thank the Board for assisting us financially to continue this program.

A solemn service was held on May 12, 1996 ordaining

Santosh Kumar Samuel, of Pallia circuit, Samuel Prakash Singh, Ferozabad circuit, Rajesh Massey, of Neoria Circuit and Prem Joshi of Dhangarhi, Nepal (L-R in photo) respectively.

There was a pressing need for their ordination as full-fledged ministers to lead their congregations. They have now independent charge of their circuits. The Rev. Y. B. Lal, Pastor in charge and Sunil C. Lal, Assistant Pastor of Bareilly, William Samuel, Field Director Nepal, and Pramod March, Director-Treasurer assisted me in the performance of the ceremony.



The school building at Bhikaripur, District Pilibhit U.P., for which our Board has so graciously sent the funds, has been under construction. The last time I was there, the foun-

Newsletter from India and Nepal Cont...

dation work was completed and the walls were going up. We hope that by the end of June 1996 the building will be completed. We thank the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina for providing the school build-



ing so soon.

Our church work in Nepal is likely to progress since our Field Director is stationed close to that country, having an overall access.

There were four full-time deacons from Nepal who participated in the Bible Training Program. Even though there is a language barrier, Nepali and Hindi are almost identical which serves the purpose. Our people in Nepal use Nepali Bibles and other literature.

HARVEST TIME

by Pio dela Rosa

It's harvest time! On March 28, 1996 Palawan Bible College graduates received their degrees. For many months our faculty and staff had been sowing "seed" and watering. NOW, THE JOY OF HARVEST!

Changing times: At this milestone, we look back on a year of unpredictable events. Overseas it has been a year of war, refugees, and unprecedented change. On our campus, it has not only been a year of change, but also of challenge and cooperation.

Unchanging basics: As historical as this year has been, it is only one segment in the long history of our school. As I talk with the alumni and friends at meetings in other schools, I was reminded of things that don't change: such as the authority of the Scriptures, the victorious Christian life, and our mandate to world-wide evangelism

Back to the harvest: The special joy of a harvest of graduates is the expectation of the coming harvest of the thousands around the world whom these men and women will reach for Christ.

DON'T MISS OUT!!

On A Cross-Cultural Experience That Will Change Your Life.
SHORT-TERM TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 1997

MEXICO

The dates for the Short-Term Team to Mexico for 1997 are June 14-24 and July 12-22.

PHILIPPINES

The dates for the Short-Term Team to the Philippines for 1997 are April 19-May 3.
Begin to pray about joining one of these teams in 1997.
Call or write today for more information about these exciting opportunities for service.

Board of Foreign Missions
Post Office Box 39 • Ayden, North Carolina 28513
919-746-4963

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR W. SCOTT SOWERS

Concerning the Board of Foreign Missions report to the Convention.

"The Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists received the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel that reviewed the reports presented in the 1995 Report Book. The panel checked for compliance with the requirements of the Convention, the accuracy of the report based upon a comparison of the report and the accountant's statements, and problems noted in the process.

I am pleased to share with you that your report was found in compliance with the requirements, accurate when compared with your accountant's statement, and without any noted problems. We appreciate the accuracy and thoroughness with which you presented your financial information to the Convention. You were one of two ministries that scored 100%. Thank you for a job well done!"

The '95 Penny Campaign

From the Mountains to the Sea They Came.

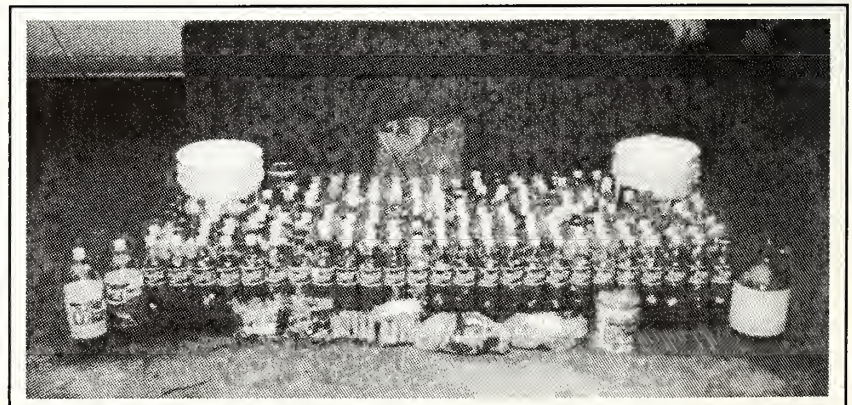
At the Youth Convention in the Spring of 1995, Home Missions and Evangelism gave Coca Colas to our *young people* who would promise to return the bottle full of pennies. They were received on the Night of Evangelism at the annual session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. We hoped to get enough pennies to pay the cost of the promotion, which was primarily to allow our *youth* to be involved with our Home Missions and Evangelism program. However, we have been pleasantly surprised. As Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes in the New Testament, God inspired our *young people* to multiply the pennies.



It takes a long time to count 400 thousand pennies. The picture at left, shows just one counting session. The grand total of \$4038.86, came from 2 five-gallon buckets, 2 one-gallon jugs and several other containers along with the 340+ bottles. The pennies came from scores of young people and dozens of churches.

To just say thank you here is not enough. Each participant, for when we have the name and address, will receive a certificate for the contribution. Also, we want to say THANK YOU to all the *youth* sponsors and leaders and parents who helped and encouraged the *young people*. It is important that our *youth* know that we appreciate them and their involvement in our churches.

Thank You.



C R A G M O N T



Registration Form Cragmont Women's Conference July 29–August 3

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball

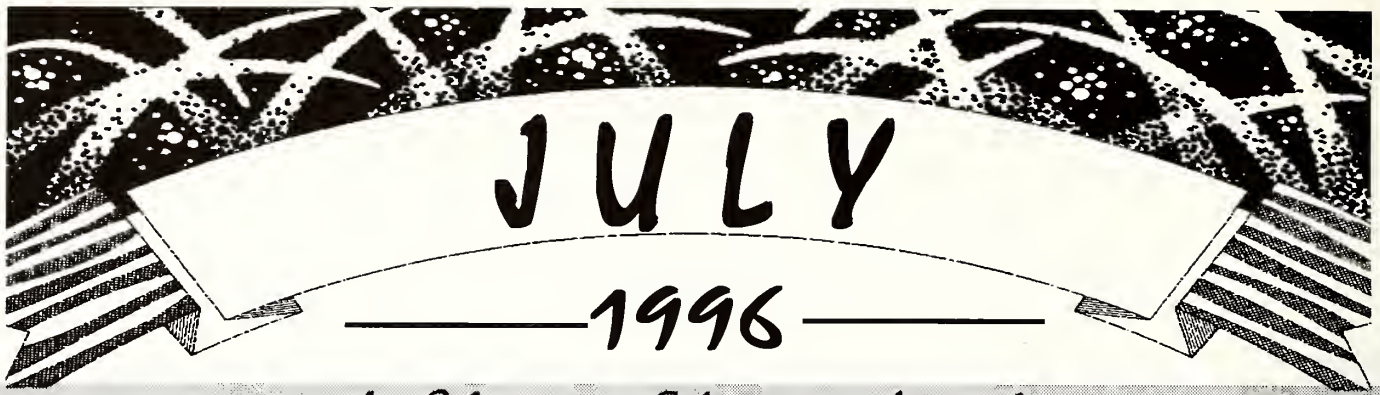
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$100.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned, and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville; these will be approximately the same cost as last year.

So get ready to pack your bags for a GREAT week at Cragmont!





Is Christian Education Month

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3

3

SUN	MON	TUE	
30	1 Press Closed for Inventory <hr/>	2	3 <hr/> YOUTH FRONT
7	8 <hr/>	9	10 <hr/> GENERAL YOUTH
14 ▼ Children's Home 50th Alumni Anniversary	15 <hr/>	16	17 <hr/> GENERAL YOUTH
<hr/> ● Foreign Missions, S			
21	22 <hr/>	23	24 <hr/> YOUNG PEO
<hr/> ● Foreign Missions, Short-Term — July 13-23			
28	29 <hr/>	30 ■ Minister's Program 10:00 am, Headquarters	31 <hr/> WOMEN'S

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

Gr E N D

us/following month
t month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Children's Home
- ◆ Layman's League
- * Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Minister's Program
- ⌘ Woman's Auxiliary

THU		FRI		SAT	
4	Headquarters Closed Press Closed	5		6	
CONFERENCE • AFC WEEK • JULY 1-6		Independence Day			
11		12		13	● Foreign Mission Short-Term — July 13-23
CONFERENCE II • TRUTH MATTERS • JULY 8-13					
18		19		20	
CONFERENCE I • TRUTH MATTERS • JULY 15-20					
m — July 13-23					
25		26		27	
BIBLE CONFERENCE • JULY 22-27					
1		2		3	
CONFERENCE • JULY 29 - AUGUST 3					

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



Renovation Update!

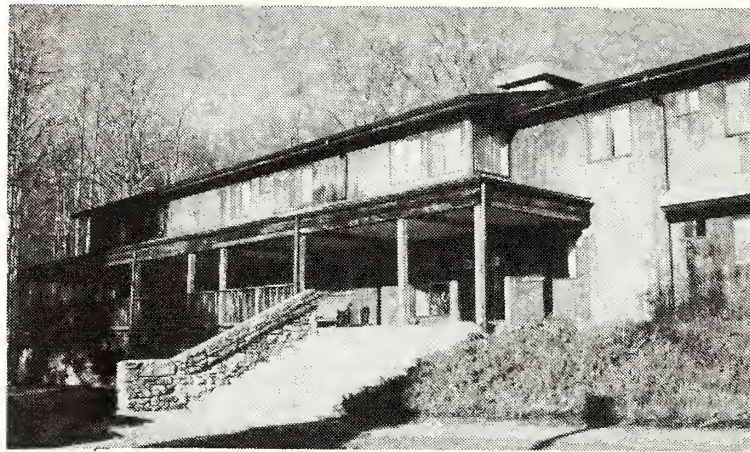
The renovation of the north end suites of the main building should be finished within days of this writing. As promised, each room had private baths, along with new carpet, wallpaper, beds, and ceilings. New fluorescent lamps make the rooms much brighter. The laundry room has a new access door, and the basement has a new ceiling. The construction work has given new life to the north end.

A lot of much needed work has also been done in the motel, and the Floyd House. In the motel, outdated carpet and some worn ceiling tiles have all been replaced along with much needed mattresses. Tub kits have also been used around the existing tubs in order to make them easier to clean and much more appealing to the eye.

In the Floyd House, new windows, carpet, paint, and a re-shingled roof has given it an almost new appearance.

We're very proud of these and all the other work that has been done so far. With your support, we have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time. And gladly, our denomination's youth will be among the first to benefit. Please feel free to come and see for yourselves. We invite anyone and all churches to visit us, not only to see the changes, but to experience the Spirit that never changes. Come and see what God is doing at Cragmont!

Please continue to pray for us. God has blessed our efforts and we will live in a faith expectation that He will continue to do so.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As this phase of the renovations come to a close, we need funds to purchase bedding supplies for the "new rooms." In the past, many have made gifts of spreads, blankets and sheets, and we thank God for them all. However, we ask that you please make a monetary donation so that we can buy in bulk exactly what we need. Thanks so much to those who have already pledged and given!

1996 LEAGUE CONVENTION

May 18, 1996 was the date and Mount Olive College was the place. Free Will Baptist Leaguers met for their annual League Convention at Rodgers Chapel. The Convention theme, "...so worship I the God of my fathers..." (Acts 24:14) was demonstrated throughout the day. The opening devotion expressed worship to God through open eyes that looked at His wonderful world. The Convention president, Charlene Howell, spoke of the League's heritage of worship to God. Leaguers from the First FWB Church of Goldsboro helped Charlene demonstrate several League activities that showed the League's commitment to worshipping God. The president also shared her first experience with the League. She was very impressed by the involvement of all ages in the League and with their knowledge of what the League represented.

One of the high points of the day was the Sword Drill competition. Our win-

ners were: Junior Level – Hillary Williams from the First FWB Church of Goldsboro and Intermediate Level – Clair Taylor from Hickory Chapel FWB Church. The competition was fun and exciting. Clair, who has been a Sword Drill winner for several years, found each of the 12 items within the 15 second time limit.

Another event enjoyed by all was the musical, "Truth Works," performed by the choirs of the First FWB Church of Goldsboro and Bethlehem FWB Church. The musical presented the need to glorify God in all our decisions. It was especially geared to the decisions that youth have to make every day.

Also included in the day's activities was chorus time, led by Libby Taylor and special music by Stacey Burgess. From start to finish the day can be best described as one filled with an atmosphere of praise and worship to the God of our fathers who is our God too.



Hillary Williams



Clair Taylor

STUDY GUIDE 1996-97

BIBLE SWORD DRILL – JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE

North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptist Leaguers

I. Scripture Searching (Worship of God; His Son, Jesus)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Psalm 95:6 | 9. 2 Kings 17:36 | 17. Malachi 1:11 |
| 2. Isaiah 27:13 | 10. Matthew 4:10 | 18. Daniel 2:20 |
| 3. John 4:23-24 | 11. Luke 24:52 | 19. Acts 16:25 |
| 4. Philippians 3:3 | 12. Revelation 5:8 | 20. 1 Corinthians 4:5 |
| 5. Hebrews 1:6 | 13. Matthew 8:2 | 21. 1 Peter 4:11 |
| 6. Revelation 4:10-11 | 14. Mark 5:22 | 22. Psalm 145:10 |
| 7. Deuteronomy 26:10 | 15. John 9:37-38 | 23. Psalm 33:2 |
| 8. 1 Chronicles 16:29 | 16. Psalm 113:3 | 24. Luke 2:20 |

II. Unfinished Quotations (Love of God)

1. "But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers..." (Deuteronomy 7:8).
2. "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, yea I have loved thee,..." (Jeremiah 31:3).
3. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,..." (John 3:16).
4. "But God commendeth his love toward us,..." (Romans 5:8).
5. "But God who is rich in mercy, for his great Love where with he loved us,..." (Ephesians 2:4-5).
6. "Behold, what manner of Love the Father hath bestowed upon us,..." (1 John 3:1).
7. "And I will betroth (woo, win) thee unto me forever,..." (Hosea 2:19).

8. "It is because of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed,..." (Lamentations 3:22–23).
9. "And his mercy is on them that fear him,..." (Luke 1:50).
10. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done,..." (Titus 3:5)
11. "And he arose, and came to his father,..." (Luke 15:20).
12. "He that Loveth not knoweth not God;..." (1 John 4:8).

III. Character Drill

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Abraham (Genesis 17:5) | 5. Naomi (Ruth 1:20) | 9. Peter (Matthew 16:16–18) |
| 2. Sarah (Genesis 17:15–16) | 6. John (Luke 1:13) | 10. Boaz (Ruth 4:21–22) |
| 3. Israel (Genesis 32:28) | 7. Jesus (Luke 1:31–33) | 11. Jude (Jude 1:1) |
| 4. Paul (Acts 13:9) | 8. Samson (Judges 13:24) | 12. James (James 1:1) |

IV. Book Drill

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Deuteronomy | 5. Jonah | 9. 2 Thessalonians |
| 2. Ezra | 6. Malachi | 10. Philemon |
| 3. Proverbs | 7. John | 11. 2 Peter |
| 4. Daniel | 8. Ephesians | 12. Revelation |

V. Topical Drill (Satan)

1. Serpent (Genesis 3:1, 14)
2. Satan (Job 1:6)
3. Angel of Light (2 Corinthians 11:14)
4. Angel of bottomless pit (Revelation 9:11)
5. Dragon (Revelation 20:2)
6. Devil (Luke 4:13)
7. Prince of the world (John 12:31)
8. The wicked one (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
9. The god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
10. Principalities, powers, rulers of this world, wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12)
11. Roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8)
12. Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24)

VII. Doctrinal Drill (Promises)

1. The Bible teaches that God has given the Christians great and precious promises. (2 Peter 1:4)
2. The Bible teaches us that God has promised Christians eternal life. (1 John 2:25)
3. The Bible teaches that Christians should not be troubled because Jesus has gone to prepare a mansion for each one. (John 14:1–2)
4. The Bible teaches that all things work together for Christians who love God and are in His will. (Romans 8:28)
5. The Bible teaches that God's grace is sufficient in our weakness and infirmities. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
6. The Bible teaches that there shall be no sorrow or crying in heaven. (Revelation 21:4)
7. The Bible teaches that if we are wise with God's wisdom, and help turn others to righteousness, we shall shine as the stars forever. (Daniel 12:3)
8. The Bible teaches the Lord's Prayer in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 6:9–13)
9. The Bible teaches the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 5:7 Read either one)
10. The Bible teaches that Jesus taught the two greatest commandments: First, Love God; Second, Love our neighbor as ourselves. (Mark 12:30–31)
11. The Bible teaches that we must preach the Word in season and out of season...with all longsuffering and doctrine. (2 Timothy 4:2)
12. The Bible teaches that there is no fear in perfect (mature Christian) Love. (1 John 4:18)

Bible will be provided. Only references from this guide will be accepted. Any church or youth group may have 2 junior (ages 9–11) and 2 intermediate (ages 12–15) contestants. However, at the Convention, the church must register with one \$25 fee. God Bless You!

Becky Jo Sumner

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

MEMORIES

by Julia Pate Gaskins

What are memories? They are moments that shape our future. We need to work to shape memories in our lives with our families, friends and neighbors.

I remember when years ago my husband and his dad would take our sons to Camp Vandemere to fish and our daughter and I would stay home and shop and do the special things that little girls like to do. These memories have come rushing back to our family in the last three weeks. My husband, Aldric, has recently been given the job as manager of Camp Vandemere. In this position he will be working with Rev. Ralph Sumner to take care of the camp.

It is a joy to be here and see the wonderful facility that the Original Free Will Baptist people have built. We are working hard to make this camp a good place to come. We are also making more memories for our family because now our grandsons and other family members are visiting us often.

Well, school is out, and vacation time is here. Why don't you make a Summer Memory Book and keep a record of special outings, family activities and unusual events. Go to the beach or pool and swim with family and friends. Have Bible studies together. Join a group and make crafts together. Playing ball and throwing horseshoes are fun. Do you know how to paddle a canoe? How about a time to pray together, and maybe it will be good just to have quiet times with God.

I know a place that you can come and do all of the wonderful things that I have mentioned. You are right. Come to Camp Vandemere. We have a new pool for you to swim in this summer. There are games to play and slides and swings. You can play ping pong and jump on the trampoline. You can catch that special fish and see many different kinds of birds. You can watch the moon sparkle like diamonds on the beautiful Bay River. The glory of God is even manifested in the big mosquitoes that we have here. We want everyone to have a good time here — even the mosquitoes.

The food is good and the camp directors lovingly give their time to God and to you. Come to our camp for young people. There are also special weeks and weekends for adults. Families are invited to make reservations and visit us. Maybe your church or families would like to come for a day. This is your camp, and you are welcome.

Special moments don't just happen. We have to make them happen. With Christ in our hearts we are a family. Here at camp you will make good friends and have special relationships of Christian love.

Remember, today is the last day of your past and the first day of your future. Come visit us at Camp Vandemere, and we will make a memory together.

REVIVAL MEETING

Mount Tabor FWB Church in Creswell is celebrating its Centennial with revival meetings scheduled for the week of July 29 – August 2, 1996. The guest minister for these services will be the Rev. Everett Harper, pastor of Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Plymouth. Services will begin at 7:30 nightly, and will include special music and great fellowship. A nursery will be available. Mount Tabor Church is located on Mt. Tabor Road, three miles south of US Hwy 64 West near Creswell. Pastor Keith Pelletier and the congregation invites everyone to join them for this time of worship, celebration and renewal!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

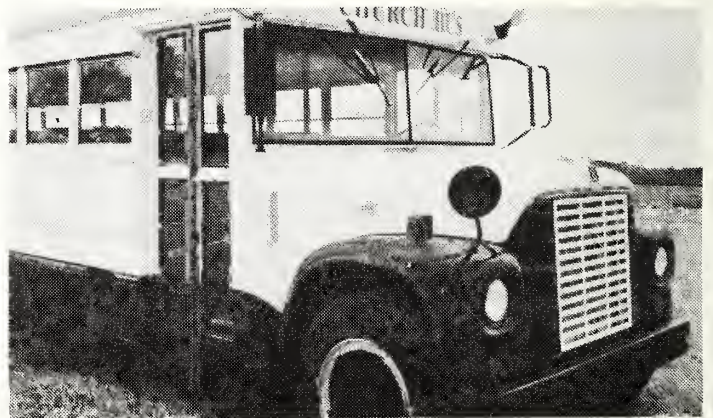
Rev. Owen Arthur
660 Half Moon Road
New Bern, NC 28560
Effective July 1, 1996. The Rev. Owen Arthur the pastor of Memorial FWB Church, Chocowinity, NC, will be starting his duties there the first Sunday in July.

— FOR SALE —

The trustees of Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church in accord with the will of the congregation offer for sale the item pictured with description.

All inquires may be directed to Mr. Steve Sutton at
Home 752-6458 or Farm 758-3789

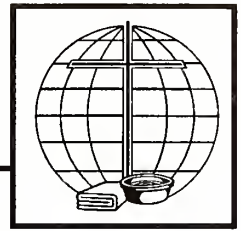
1973 IH, Rebuilt Engine – 500-600 miles
New King Pin and Bushing, New Front Tires,
New Rear End, High Speed, Good Paint,
Upholstery, Missing 4 seats.



Happy Fourth of July

From
The Free Will Baptist Press
and
The Bible and Bookstores
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson

Attention:
The Golden Years
by Dr. W. Burkette Raper
will not be printed in the
July Free Will Baptist,
due to the lack of space.
July's The Golden Years
will be printed in the *August Free Will Baptist*,
along with the
August The Golden Years.
Thank You.



HOLLY SPRINGS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Alice is the daughter of George Daniel Hill and Mary Pelletier Hill. She was born on June 9, 1932, the youngest of three sisters and two brothers.

In 1944, she joined the Methodist Church. She graduated from Beaufort High School on May 26, 1950.

Married to a wonderful man, Reginal Clinton Garner on July 21, 1950, they have three wonderful daughters. Patsi works at Cherry Point, Elaine owns a video store, and Margaret is an attorney with Gibson, Dunn, and Crutchers in Washington, DC. Alice retired from Cherry Point in August of 1992 to be at home with her family.

Alice joined the Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Newport, NC in 1964. During this time she and her husband have been faithful members. She is a



member of the Ladies Sunday school class and secretary of all our Sunday school classes, Vice-President of our Ladies Auxiliary, and sings in the choir. She is also very active with our youth activities and plans to teach Bible school this year.

Alice is always there to help no matter what is needed of her. Every year she makes each member of the Ladies Auxiliary a special handcrafted gift for Christmas.

Alice is a loving, caring, Christian lady, and this is why she was chosen Woman of the Year.

Auxiliary and Layman's League of Marsh Swamp

The Marsh Swamp Auxiliary and the Men's Laymen League had a joint membership drive on Sunday night, April 14. The purpose for this very special meeting was to introduce the women and men of the church to the work of the Auxiliary and the Layman's League. Hopefully, this joint meeting encouraged women and men to become active in these two very important church organizations.

After a barbeque turkey supper, the groups separated for fellowship and a presentation of the role and activities of each organization. There were several new members to join each group. The Auxiliary and Layman's League are two main forces of the church that are responsible for keeping the "home lights burning."

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY



After the Rev. Clyde Cox had devoted one year of his life as the interim pastor for Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, he accepted a request from the church to become the full-time pastor in April. The church honored Rev. Cox on Pastor Appreciation Day, Sunday April 28, 1996. Upon arrival at the church, a rose donated by Edith Pittman was pinned on Rev. Cox. During the morning worship service, Betty Francis Kennedy and Dawn Tant recognized all he had done for the church. Books were given to the church library in honor of Rev. Cox and in memory of his late wife, Mary Cox. Special music for the service was rendered by Alma Dale, Rev. Cox's fiancée. An arrangement of flowers was placed in the church in honor of Rev. Cox by the Ladies Auxiliary. Following the Sunday morning worship service, friends and family celebrated this joyous occasion with a delicious Sunday meal prepared by Saint Mary's congregation. This wonderful day will be cherished and remembered by Rev. Cox and St. Mary's Church as a memorable day in the history of Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church.



BETHLEHEM YOUTH NEWS

submitted by Billie Ard

In March at the Eastern District Spring Youth Convention held at Saint's Delight FWB Church in Vanceboro, NC, Bethlehem's youth, of Fountaintown, NC, let their lights shine. Bethlehem's AFC Choir Group placed 1st in the district talent competition and 3rd at the state level. Brown placed 3rd in the district AFC individual talent competition. Danielle Strickland placed 1st in Arts & Crafts competition at the district and state levels, and Brettanie Albertson placed 3rd in the district YFA Arts & Crafts competition. Bethlehem's youth were also invited, along with youth from First FWB Church in Goldsboro, to bring a message of Truth at the League Convention this year by presenting the musical "Truth Works" about right and wrong choices. Congratulations to all of Bethlehem's youth. May they continue to let their light shine in all that they do!



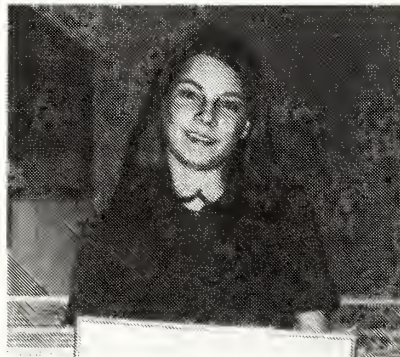
Bethlehem 1st place AFC
Group Talent Competition



Meridith Brown – 3rd Place AFC
Individual Talent Competition



Danielle Strickland – 1st Place AFC
Drawing in Arts & Crafts



Brettanie Albertson – 3rd Place YFA
Drawing in Arts & Crafts



Bethlehem Youth Presenting "Truth Works" musical

Christian Chapel Has Women's Day

Christian Chapel FWB Church, Jonestown Road, Pink Hill, had Women's Day, May 19th. The Sunday school time and worship service were carried out by women. Listed below are the ladies who had a part in Sunday school:

Beginners: Martha Martin, Martha Howard

Primary: Paige Marshburn

Juniors: April Howard

Teenagers: Donna Kennedy

Adult I: Myrtle Howard

Adult II: Audrey Powell

Adult III: Lois Blizzard

Superintendent: Joan Stroud

Pianist: Bobby Bielby

Worship Service:

Choir: All Women

Ushers: Gay Howard, Donna Tyndale,
Betty Anderson

Special Music:

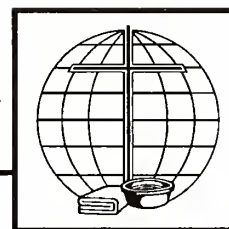
Solo – Betty Tyndale

Duet – Betty Tyndale, Cynthia Smith

Message: Connie Ozment

Children's Church: Doris Tyndale, Lois
Blizzard

In Connie's message, she used several women from the Bible for her theme. Everyone remarked what a great job she did and how special the whole day had been. Every woman in the service received a silk rose.



Mount Tabor Youth Raise Money for Steeple

In December, 1995 the young people of Mount Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church, in Creswell, accepted a challenge from Pastor Keith Pelletier to raise the funds to erect a steeple on the 100-years-old congregation's church. Named the "Stevie Steeple Club," this group of youth began to save their own change, as well as collect donations, in weeks which they received upon joining the "club." Stevie Steeple, a cartoon steeple, has encouraged the youth through appearances in church newsletters and mailings and will play a part in the recognition of "club" participants when the steeple is erected and dedicated.

On May 5, 1996 the church observed its third "Stevie Steeple Sunday." On these days, there is a special time during the service when the youth are allowed to bring their offerings and present them as offerings upon the altar. In these three Sundays, thirty-eight young people have presented over \$3500 toward the steeple project. Members of the "Stevie Steeple Club" include; Jason Phelps, Hunter Willis, Drew Brown, Crystal Ambrose, Tyler Spruill, Chelcie Spruill, McKenna Fuller, Kaitlyn Davenport, Melissa Jones, Kayla Jones, Austin Jones, Zachary Cuthrell, Betsy Cuthrell, Annie Cooper, Jennifer Cooper, Cole Phelps, Kyle Biggs, Chad Biggs, Chad Oliver, Ashley Oliver, Laine Armstrong, Mike Armstrong, Eli Spruill, Megan Spruill, Channin Davis, Michaela Davis, Jennifer Phelps, Milton Cahoon, Liza Cahoon, Danielle Furci, Michael Furci, Jamie Dunbar, Katlyn Reynolds, Kenneth Phelps, Brandy Phelps, Courtney Phelps, Geoffrey Ambrose and Gregory Ambrose.

The purchase process is already underway, and the expectation of "club" members is that the steeple will be in place

this Fall, in time for special observances commemorating the Church's Centennial. Mount Tabor Church was organized in September 1896, and moved into its first Sanctuary March 1897. And, now 100 years later, between September 1996 and March 1997 the church will celebrate its century of ministry in the Creswell community. This celebration will involve a variety of special activities, including the dedication of the church's new Education Building and the expected dedication of the church's new steeple.

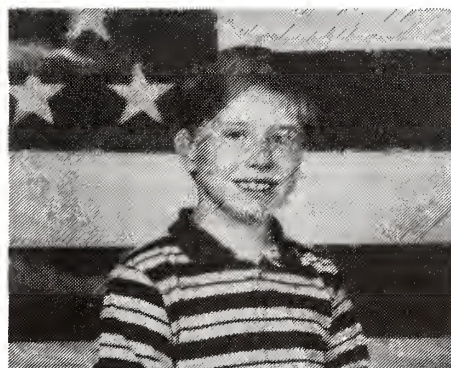
Mount Tabor Church is a member of the Albemarle Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. The church is located on Mt. Tabor Road in Creswell.



Members of the Mount Tabor "Stevie Steeple Club" are (L-R), Top; Melissa Jones, Ashley Oliver, Laine Armstrong, Jamie Cooper: Middle; Jennifer Phelps, Kyle Biggs, Megan Spruill, Kayla Jones, Chad Oliver, Katlyn Reynolds: Bottom; Eli Spruill, Austin Jones, Kaitlyn Davenport

1ST PLACE – ARTS & CRAFTS

Dwayne Godwin won 1st place in Arts & Crafts in the Sculpture Division, Cherub age at the State Youth Convention May 18. He was not able to be at the presentation of awards.





APPRECIATION DAY HELD AT SPRING HILL CHURCH FOR ALMA DALE

On Sunday, June 2, 1996, Spring Hill FWB Church honored Alma Dale in appreciation for her many years of service to the Lord at Spring Hill Church. Alma will be marrying the Rev. Clyde Cox on July 13, and will be attending St. Mary's Church which he is pastoring.

She will be very much missed by all of us at Spring Hill. Preacher Bill and "Miss Alma" came to Spring Hill in September of 1966. Under their ministry we grew spiritually and in number. Alma began a new Sunday school class the first Sunday in June, 1974. Her Sunday school class was in charge of the services honoring her. They presented her with 22 long-stemmed pink roses in honor of the 22 years she taught the Ambassadors class. They also presented her with an engraved silver tray for her years of blessing this class with her teaching. Alma also was choir director for 26 years. She encouraged many young people and adults to use their talents for the Lord. The Sunday morning service was dedicated to Alma. The choir sang some of her favorite songs. Mac and Frances Radford gave some of the highlights of her service over the years. Even after Preacher Bill died, Alma continued to give of herself to Spring Hill Church and the denomination. Pastor Pete Norris read a beautiful poem written by Lois Smith especially for Alma. Rachel Turner presented her with a very special memory book, filled with letters of appreciation and pictures, from members of the church.

She also read a poem written especially for Alma. Mac Radford sang a song dedicated to her. There was a special offering taken for a "Honeymoon" for Alma and Rev. Clyde. After the morning message we all enjoyed a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall of the church. Alma has been a very special friend and blessing to all of us at Spring Hill. She has been a spiritual guide for us and touched many lives in her service for the Lord. We are thankful for the Lord's allowing her to be a part of our lives over these past thirty years. Alma now has a new work to do and we pray God's richest blessing on her and Pastor Clyde as they embark on a new phase of their lives together.

They will be married at Spring Hill Church on July 13, 1996 at 4:00 in the afternoon.

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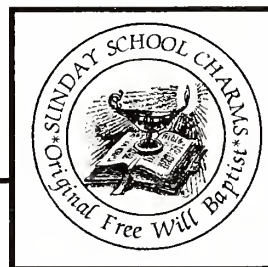


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SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



WHY SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Have you ever wondered why we have Sunday school? Since the late 1780's when Robert Raikes established a school for some of the poor children of England, people have wondered about this "thing" called Sunday school. There have been many peaks and valleys through the decades in regard to Sunday school growth. While it seems that the peaks have come about in response to the needs of people, the valleys creep in as a result of people being lulled by complacency or lack of commitment coupled with a desire for "feel good" religion.

If someone were to ask you why we have Sunday school, or why you go to Sunday school, what would you answer? For as many people as you talk with, you will receive as many different responses. Some which have been recorded in various sources and in different situations have been:

- "It teaches the message of God"
- "It trains our children. They need it more than we do."
- "It prepares us for life."
- "I can meet my friends."
- "I can make business contacts."
- "It teaches respect for those in authority."
- "I can develop my personal relationship with God."
- "I get to sing pretty songs and perform in plays."
- "It's a tradition in my family."
- "It presents opportunities to share our Christian experiences."
- "We get free coffee and doughnuts."
- "We study the Bible."
- "I suppose it's just a habit I started when I was little and was made to go."
- "It's entertaining."

While many of these responses in the context of the situation may be valid, we need to be sure that our efforts are balanced. There should be a focus on Bible study (the message of and from God), fun/fellowship, and on making disciples (evangelism). If we center all our attention on just the study of the Scriptures, we may find ourselves eliminating people and their needs. On the other hand, if we focus our attention only on people and their needs without a foundation in the message of God, we run the risk of becoming just a social club.

I would offer this suggestion to each of our Sunday schools. We need to ask ourselves a serious question about the church's mission. In other words, what do we care most about? Make a choice (a plan if you will) about growth. Either the church is willing to grow with the times or it is happy to stay in yesteryear. Many times I have shared the thought that we do not need to change the MESSAGE; we need to change the METHOD of delivery. We are no longer living in the horse-and-buggy days. We are engaging in space travel, even living in space for long periods of time with people of other countries. What a great challenge this is!

We also need to pray about the plan which we decide to deliver after the choice has been made. Without the leadership and guidance of our Father in Heaven, we could do nothing. Oftentimes, we get so wrapped up in our own self-importance that we forget our source of energy. I trust there are no people in our ranks who would put words in the mouth of our Lord just to get their way!

Next, I would suggest that we promote the cause of Christ in all the world. This is discipleship. Every single person on the face of this earth deserves the right to hear the message of God. This is going to mean enlarging the

place of our tent. I am not only referring to the building and/or securing larger places. I am referring to enlarge our minds and hearts to be receptive to new ideas. If you are doing something which is working in your church, PLEASE share it with others.

For the past few months, our Executive Administrator, the Reverend Scott Sowers, has been sharing thoughts and ideas about TEAMWORK. Our Lord used a team approach when sharing His message. Can we do otherwise? We can do so much more when we work together than when we work alone. Now, mind you, there are times when it is necessary to work alone. Our Lord spent many hours alone. But He spent them in PRAYER. How do we spend our hours alone? Are we trying to come up with ideas to further this denomination as it makes its way into the 21st century or are we spending our time alone thinking of ways to keep people's minds in bondage? I truly hope and pray that we can catch the vision of teamwork and help each of our churches be the best to our Lord.

In conclusion, the time has come for us to revitalize our faith and invigorate our churches. What better way than through the Sunday school! Is this the year for us to begin to reach our potential as we PLAN, PRAY, and PROMOTE? If we decide it is, then we can begin to make an impact on the lives with whom we come in contact.

CALL-IN SUNDAY

The Sunday School Board would like to thank those churches who took time on February 25, 1996, CALL-IN SUNDAY, to call us and share their Sunday school attendance and worship attendance. This was the first attempt to begin to look for patterns in attendance which would assist us in knowing where we need to focus our attention. Of the 245 churches in 7 Conferences/Associations, only 41 called in and shared information. From these churches, the Sunday school attendance was 2,996 and the worship attendance was 3,648. I wonder what happened in the other churches on that Sunday!

FOUR P's

February was Sunday school month. Only 6% of our churches have returned information gathered during the month concerning the effort of the Four P's (PRAY, PREPARE, PRESENT, and PROMOTE). If there are others who would like to send their information, please do so. Some very good information was shared with us. This information will be shared with all our churches in the newsletter, TEACH.

Please continue to pray for the continued efforts of the Sunday School Board. Invite the Director to come to your church to share the mission of the Board and the efforts of the Ministry to Sunday Schools.

**SUBMITTED BY MARY DUDLEY, DIRECTOR OF THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY**

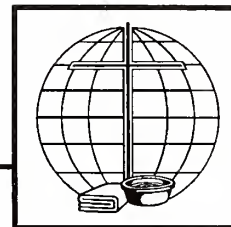


Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



"GOOD NEWS" ALL AROUND

Since I have been visiting pastors and churches and attending meetings and conferences, I have discovered that there are good things happening in many areas of the denomination. Following are a few examples:

Most of the churches I have visited seem to be making some real strides in both numeric growth and quality programming. I have found a spiritual vitality and real excitement about discovering and doing the will of God.

The returned surveys are showing a slight increase in worship attendance over that which was reported last September. The surveys have also provided us with much needed information. There seems to be a real interest on the part of both ministers and laity in seeing our denomination move forward. (Please remember that the report on the information gathered will be presented at the 1996 Session of the Convention.)

Optimism and celebration were the major attitudes at the 50th Anniversary of the Minister's Conference at Cragmont. The ministers participated in the program, which was both both informative and inspiring. I felt a really strong commitment to growth and fellowship among the ministers. There seems to be a renewed hope that is based on that renewed commitment.

The ministry directors and the boards of our ministries have given serious attention to addressing issues related to reporting and accountability. They are developing a "team spirit" that will focus on working together toward fulfilling the mission of the denomination. The communication lines are flowing much freer.

The work of the Task Force Committee is yielding much needed information in assessing our current situation and in planning for our future. We are hearing from many different sources evaluation of current programs and perceived needs

for the future. We are discovering the dreams and aspirations--the visions--of Original Free Will Baptists in both the pew and pulpits.

I have also found a renewed interest in prayer and worship! I know that there are those who are praying for our denomination on a regular basis. Churches, ministers, and laity have given prayer a high priority. We are drawing on the only source for real solutions, God, and we are honoring Him with worship.

I would strongly urge you to be patient. Improvement seldom comes as rapidly as we desire it. To rush toward simple solutions to complex problems will only yield disappointment. The problems that we face are not cosmetic, only requiring a Band-aid. We did not arrive where we are overnight, nor will we move to where we want to be in an instant. Change is a process that will require time! We have begun the process. Let's work together to become what God wants us to be!

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

There have been some recent changes at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters. Michelle Fordham is now serving as receptionist, in addition to her duties as administrative assistant. Michelle has exchanged office spaces with Sandra Jones to facilitate her new responsibilities. It is very likely that she will answer the phone when you call the Headquarters.

Sandra Jones had graciously served as receptionist since the beginning of the Headquarters operation. At the time Sandra accepted the responsibility, she maintained the most consistent hours at the Headquarters. She has served the Convention and the ministries located in the Headquarters complex well for many years. We all appreciate the way that she has worked and encourage you to join us in saying *Thank you!* to Sandra. We truly appreciate her.

As full-time administrative assistant, Michelle now keeps the most extensive and consistent hours at the Headquarters. She maintains the office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays. Due to the nature of the work of ministry directors, their hours are often different. Sometimes they are in the office much earlier and work much later; they often work evenings as well. It is also possible that they are not working in the office but are on the field.

Everyone is encouraged to make appointments when they wish to visit with anyone in the Headquarters. Schedules and work loads sometimes require planning on the part of the employees if they are going to accommodate their guests and fulfill job-related responsibilities. We all want to be available, but an appointment makes it easier for us to give you the attention you need. It is also requested that visitors "check in" with the receptionist prior to visiting offices in the Headquarters.

The executive administrator and the director of Foreign Missions have also traded offices. This change was made by mutual consent to facilitate a working relationship between staff members. The executive administrator is located in the first office after entering the building (from the main entrance of the Headquarters). The director of Foreign Missions is now located in the third office on the front hall.

FAX SERVICE

Fax service is now available at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters. Our fax number is 919-746-7993 and all of the ministries at the Headquarters can receive faxes through the service. The fax machine operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week and faxes will be delivered to the various offices when received.

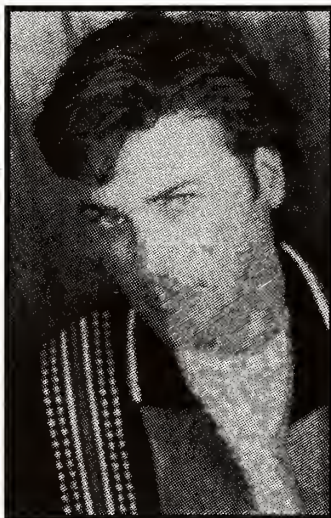


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Editor's Note

Dear Church Family;

Well, summer has finally arrived! This is the time when we all look forward to time with our children while they are out of school, time for vacations, and time just to simply relax. For the most part, this is the time when we seem to get really lazy with our responsibilities- especially when it comes to our responsibility to the church.

Look around your church next Sunday morning, you begin to miss some of the church families, that is because they are out of town. Many times their excuse is, "It was such a beautiful day, we decided to head to the beach with the family." Or this, "Things are so busy during the rest of the year that we just had to take some time off to enjoy the weather."

Many people have the attitude that no major event of the Christian faith happens during the summer, so why go? In reality, summer can be just as busy as the rest of the year.

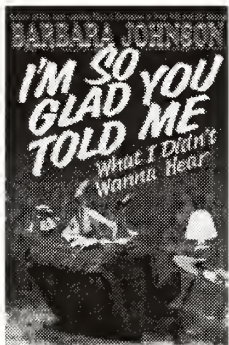
There is so much that can be planned for all to enjoy during this time of the year. For instance, Vacation Bible Schools, retreats for the youth, and helping summer camps and those that direct a certain week.

God's business is an everyday, twelve month opportunity. Shouldn't we be thanking Him just as much now as later? Who knows if or when later will be! Until next month enjoy the summer in God's House.

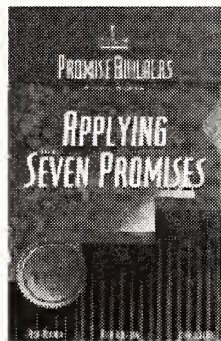
In His Service,

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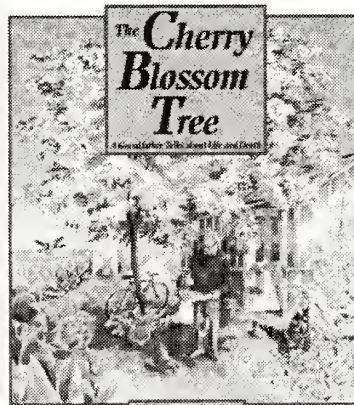
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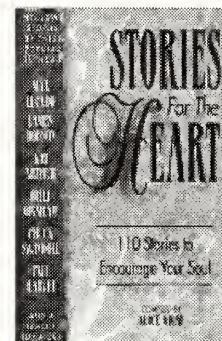
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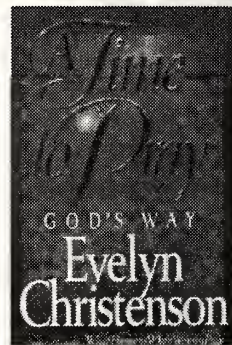
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NEXT MONTH

September Is
Home Missions
and
Evangelism Month

August
Is
Convention Promotion
Month

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Denominational Ministries

Eighty-fourth Annual Session Provides a Call to Worship

by W. Scott Sowers

The Eighty-fourth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene in Mount Olive, NC, at Mount Olive College, on September 10-12, 1996. The Annual Session is one of the key events for Original Free Will Baptists, for it is the one time of the year when they gather together for worship, fellowship, and business.

Ministers and delegates from the 249 Original Free Will Baptist churches will participate in the activities of the week. (The schedule for the Convention can be found on page 8 of this issue.) Each of the ten denominational ministries will set up a display; each Convention participant will receive a report book which contains the annual reports from the boards, committees, and ministries of the Convention.

Preparation

We are asking everyone to begin preparing for the Convention. Each church — each member — is asked to participate in 40 days of prayer and preparation. The success of the Convention is dependent upon God and our commitment to Him! He is able; we must be willing.

Worship

Worship services have been planned for Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning, Wednesday evening, and Thursday morning. Each service will highlight the theme, "Call to Worship," and worship leaders, music leaders, and speakers will all encourage Convention participants to glorify God.

Pastor Lowell Burrus will speak during the Night of Evangelism and the Wednesday morning worship service. Mr. Burrus is senior pastor of Olive Branch Church of God in Roann, Indiana. The church, which is located in a rural area, has grown from an attendance of 30 to the point that 350-400 people now gather weekly to worship and praise God. When Mr. Burrus arrived as pastor at Olive Branch, the annual budget was \$5,200, with little lay ministry and no mission outreach. At present, the church's annual budget is \$327,000 and the church is involved in extensive mission outreach, with a variety of ministries.

Lowell and his wife, June, of 39 years, have lived in a rural setting all of their lives and have been involved in rural ministry over the past three decades. His success at Olive Branch, combined with his ability to identify with the struggling rural church, makes Lowell Burrus an ideal speaker for our Convention.

On Wednesday evening, the impact of short-term mission work will be felt at the annual Missions Rally. Participants from the special summer missions program will share through music, testimony, and puppetry. Antonio Escobar, a native worker from Mexico, will speak to the congregation. Original Free Will Baptists are encouraged to come by bus, van, and car to worship — and to hear the challenge of the Great Commission.

The Rev. Leon Grubbs, Convention vice president, will bring the message on Thursday morning. Mr. Grubbs is pastor of Hull Road Church, located near Snow Hill.

Business

In addition to reports from boards, committees, and ministries, many items of business will be handled during the Annual Session. The Executive Committee and the Executive Administrator will report on Wednesday morning. Each of the denominational ministries will report during the day on Wednesday; others will report on Thursday.

The Nominating Committee is scheduled to report on Wednesday morning. The floor will be opened for other nominations immediately after the report. *This will be the only opportunity for nominations from the floor.* An information sheet must be turned in to the Convention secretary, Bruce Dudley, by 3 p.m. on Wednesday for any nominations made on the floor. A supplementary sheet, with biographical information, will be provided to ministries and delegates on Thursday morning prior to the election.

Fellowship

There will be a number of opportunities for fellowship and encouragement during the Convention. The Murphy Center makes mealtime a great time to visit with old friends and to make new ones. The display area is a prime spot to gather with other Original Free Will Baptists.

A special reception has been planned in honor of Original Free Will Baptist ministers following the Missions Rally on Wednesday evening. This make-your-own-sundae activity should provide enjoyment and fellowship. Everyone is invited to attend.

As you can see, the Annual Convention will be an exciting event. Make your plans now to attend. And begin now to prepare — begin now to pray.

Please unite with the rest of the churches in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in asking God for these requests:

40 days of Prayer & Preparation

2ND CHRONICLES 7:14

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

August 1

The Convention of
Original Free Will
Baptists
The Convention
Task Force

August 2

The Officers of the Convention:
Ray Wells, President
Leon Grubbs, Vice Pres.
Bruce Dudley, Secretary
Ronnie Hobgood, Treas.
The Convention Executive Comm.

August 3

Conv. Executive Administrator
W. Scott Sowers
Administrative Assistant
Michelle Fordham

August 4 : A Day of Prayer

God's Vision for Original Free Will
Baptists
God's Vision for Your Local Church
The Church Using Its Spiritual Gifts
Neighbors, Co-workers Who Need
Christ

August 5

FWB Children's Home
Dr. Bobby Taylor, Executive
Director
The Children and Staff
The Board of Directors

August 6

Church Finance Association
Don Fader, Executive Director
Michelle Weatherington,
Secretary

August 7

Foreign Missions
Harold Jones, Executive Director
Sandra Jones, Secretary
Missionaries and Native Pastors/
Workers
Mission Churches
Board

August 8

Home Missions
David C. Hansley,
Executive Director
Bruce Dudley, Ass't.
Andrea Cox, Secretary
Church Planters/Directors
Mission Churches
Board

August 9

Minister's Program
Don Fader, Ex. Director
Board

August 10

Cragmont Assembly
John Williams, Manager
Arlinda Williams, Assistant
Manager
Phyllis Stone, Secretary
Staff and Workers
Conference Personnel
Board

August 11: Day of Stewardship

Stewardship in All Things
Your Minister
Your Church Staff
Your Church Leaders
The Members of Your Local Church

August 12

Mount Olive College
Dr. William Byrd, President
Administration, Faculty, and
Staff
Students
Board

August 13

Retirement Homes
Walter Sutton, Executive Dir.
Sandra Jones, Secretary
Retirees
Board

August 14

NC State Convention of Woman's
Auxiliaries
Carolyn Jernigan, President

August 15

Your Local Woman's Auxiliary

August 16

State Youth Convention
Tara Harrison, President
Martha Parsons, Youth Chairman

August 17

Your Local Church Youth
 Your Local Church Youth Workers
 Strengthening of Youth's Spiritual Lives

August 18: Day of Celebration

Greater Joy in Serving Jesus
 Motivation for a Life of Praise
 Family and Friends

August 19

Conference Moderators

August 20

Conference Ordaining Councils

August 21

North Carolina Layman's League
 Convention
 John Newton, President

August 22

Your Local Layman's League

August 23

State League Convention
 Training Ministries

August 24

Conference Leadership
 God's Vision for the Local Conference

August 25: Day of Commitment

Surrender to God's Will

August 26

Having the Attitude of Christ

August 27

Possessing a Forgiving Attitude

August 28

Healing and Restoration for Broken
 Homes

August 29

Development of a Rock-solid Faith

August 30

To Be a Better Listener to God and
 His People

August 31

Personal Commitment

September 1

Free Will Baptist Ministers
 Retired Ministers
 Ministers' Families

September 2

Licensed Ministers and Their
 Families

September 3

Willingness to Respond to the Call to
 Ministry

September 4

Development of Church Leadership

September 5

Calling, Equipping, and Sending of
 Leaders
 Churches Without Pastors
 Struggling Churches

September 6

Sunday School Convention
 Mary Dudley, Director
 Board

September 7

Your Local Sunday School
 Your Sunday School Superintendent
 Your Sunday School Teacher

September 8

Personal Commitment to God's Will for
 Original Free Will Baptists
 Your Pastor
 Your Church Delegates to the
 1996 Convention

September 9

Officers of the Convention:
 President, Ray Wells
 Vice President, Leon Grubbs
 Secretary, Bruce Dudley
 Treasurer, Ronnie V. Hobgood
 The Executive Administrator: W. Scott
 Sowers
 Convention Speakers:
 Lowell Burrus
 Leon Grubbs
 Antonio Escobar



Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
 P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; (919) 746-4963

Worship

by the Rev. John Williams

In the early years of life, we might recall going to a special place and a special building we called "church" (and we might even have called such an experience "going to church"). We would go inside for Sunday school and "worship." In "worship," we would participate in songs and prayers and hear a sermon. If you possessed the curiosity of a normal child, you wondered what it all meant. Upon asking the meaning of this activity, one might hear the words, "Train up a child in the ways of the LORD and he [or she] will not depart from it."

As an individual matures into adulthood, he or she still may not have a good understanding of the meaning and purpose of worship. My purpose in writing this article is to share some thoughts on the subject of worship. There is neither time nor space to present an exhaustive presentation here. Volumes have been written on worship. It is my hope, however, that what I say may open the window to the God we worship a little wider.

Worship: The Meaning of the Term

In discussing our subject, we will need a good working definition. What does the word *worship* mean? *Webster's Dictionary*, using the word as a verb, has the following definitions: 1. to idolize, 2. to be full of adoration, 3. to take part in religious ceremonies. While these definitions are descriptive of what might take place in a worship service, they are inadequate as a working definition for the Christian person.

Turning to the *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, we find a clearer definition. There we learn that the word comes from the Saxon word *weorthscipe*, meaning "worthship." "Worship is homage — the attitude and activity designed to recognize and to describe the worth of the person or thing to which the homage is addressed" (*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, 4, p. 879). This means, to me at least, that worship is an activity whereby the believing Christian pays homage, respect, and veneration to God. We do this because we believe God is worthy of this respect or honor. We see through the Scriptures and the world in which we live how the human race has turned its back upon a loving God; and yet, God still provides opportunities for us to return to Him. Therefore, we worship because we love God.

Worshipping for the Wrong Reasons

The worship of God Almighty should be the core of our Christian faith. Failure in worship is one reason for the decline of the church in the modern world.

Many attend services of worship for the wrong reasons. There are those who are possessed by the success demon. They will be successful in their jobs, marriages, relationships with families and friends if they attend worship regularly. There are those who attend worship to be entertained. More attention is paid to "how" the preacher preaches his sermon than

to what is said. Maybe they are waiting for that certain someone to sing a special song. Still others are in worship for the emotional experience that comes on some occasions. If the feeling they are seeking is not present, then they think the Holy Spirit is not present. In their opinion, should the Holy Spirit decide not to show up, evidenced by the lack of this certain indescribable feeling, then the worship leader has not done his job. When we place these kinds of expectations upon our worship, we usually leave the sanctuary feeling empty.

The church and its leaders, including many ministers, are not blameless when it comes to poor worship. Most all of us have at some time or another witnessed some remarkable things done in the name of worship. We have had and still have those preachers with their gimmicks and tricks hoping to lure you into their money-scheming trap. They try to work up listeners into some big emotional experience to help their ministry financially when the cash flow threatens to run dry. These charlatans will leave your pockets and your spirit a valley of dry bones.

We have also attended worship services that left us empty and weak because the services, while conducted by well-meaning ministers and lay people, were planned haphazardly with no meaning and purpose. The cold "this is the way we've always done it — let's hurry up and get home" methodology (and mentality) is driving many away from the church.

Sometimes the church is not willing to admit that poor worship might be responsible for decline. Instead of striving for rich, meaningful worship that ushers Christians into the presence of the Almighty, we have turned to discipleship programs and church growth seminars to solve the attendance problems of the church. These programs have their place in the life of the church. These programs are good for the teaching

ministry of the church, but they should never replace worship. Discipleship, evangelism, and church growth are the products of true worship of God and they should not take the place of worship. What is needed today is a fresh vision of God, one where we discover His ways and where we are encouraged to make His ways our ways.

What Does Good Worship Look Like?

My job at Cragmont requires me, on occasion, to travel to our churches for the purpose of representing Cragmont as a ministry of our denomination. I have often heard the phrase "handle the preliminaries," meaning the congregational singing, choir song, offering, prayers, etc. before worship.

First of all, we do not share a few songs and prayers, take up an offering, and then start to "worship" during the sermon. If we are to have a healthy view of worship, we must realize that everything we do in the service is worship. Good worship occurs when we are ushered into the presence of the Almighty and we give adoration, honor, and praise to God through every song we sing and every prayer we pray.

Worship is where we offer ourselves to God. This is why all aspects of the worship service should be well planned. Every minister of every congregation should understand that he is the worship leader and that he is called out by none other than God himself to lead His people to the throne of grace.

This does not give ministers (or a lay person) the authority to plot, conspire, or plan the service in such a way that the altar is filled with weeping people from the pews. As ministers, we should plan the worship service as best we can and allow the Holy Spirit to get the person to the altar. This is not to say that emotions

have no place in worship, for emotions play a very important part in our worship. There are plenty of times that I have been moved to tears of rejoicing while involved in worship. But, stirring up emotions is not to be the goal of the worship service. The goal is to lead the person in the pew into the presence of God through song, Scripture, prayer, whereby he or she may recognize his or her sin and find forgiveness.

In Conclusion

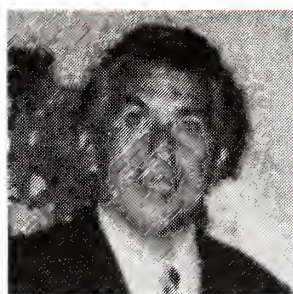
True worship will retell the story. What story? The story that God has created us for His glory, that we have turned our backs upon Him, and gone our own way, that He has loved us and redeemed us through His son, Jesus Christ. Every song, prayer, testimony, sermon, benediction, all parts of the worship service, should retell that story of God and His dealings with His people (*A Pilgrim People*, John H. Westerhoff III, The Seabury Press, p. 1).

My wife loves to read. Sometimes she will become so involved in the book she is reading that she will stay up all hours of the night reading. Anyone who has a love of reading will tell you that you become deeply involved with the characters of the book as you read. One can participate in the story with the characters. True worship is no different.

True worship will involve you in the story. True worship will draw you into the story of God and His people and invite you to take part. It is there that you will meet Him.

We hear the cry for revival in our churches' worship. I think the reason we are not experiencing it is that "we" are "trying" to have revival. When we make this effort in our worshiping, then the focus has shifted away from God to man. Amen.

1996 Convention Personalities



The Rev. Lowell Burrus, top left, is the guest speaker for the Night of Evangelism; Mr. Burrus will also deliver the message to the Convention on Wednesday morning during the worship service. The pastor of Olive Branch Church of God, located in Roann, Indiana, Mr. Burrus has been involved in rural church ministry for the last three decades.

Antonio Escobar, top right, will speak on Wednesday evening during the Missions Rally. Mr. Escobar is a native worker from Mexico.



The Rev. Leon Grubbs, bottom left, will deliver the message during the Thursday morning worship service. Mr. Grubbs is the vice president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. He serves as pastor of Hull Road Church, located near Snow Hill, NC.

The Rev. Ray Wells, bottom right, serves as president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Mr. Wells is pastor of Marsh Swamp Church, located in Rock Ridge, NC.

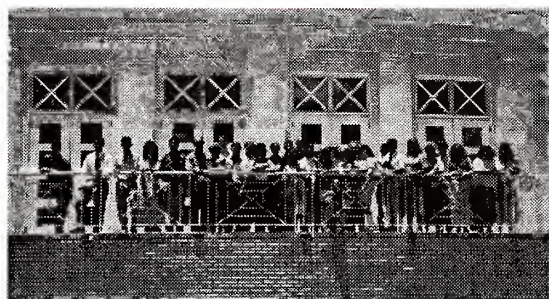
Don't Miss The Annual Convention Missions Rally

**SEPTEMBER 11, 1996 • 7:30 PM
COLLEGE HALL, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN CHARGE**

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES



**SPEAKER,
REV. ANTONIO ESCOBAR, FIELD DIRECTOR, MEXICO**



**SPECIAL MUSIC & TESTIMONIES:
SHORT-TERM TEAM MEMBERS**



SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY MEXICAN PUPPETS

Why not call off Prayer Meeting and come to the Rally? This will be an exciting evening that you will long remember.

SPECIAL OFFERING: Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year.

REMEMBER: Your special gift to Foreign Missions at the Missions Rally must be designated. If for some reason you cannot attend the Rally, you can mail your gift and receive credit for the Rally offering.

PRODUCING SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

by Z.I. Perocillo

Pictured with this article are 25 graduates of TEE last June 1, 1996, together with their instructors. Two of them, Pastor Junnifer Yarag and his wife Virgenia Yarag are not in the picture, because before they could march for graduation to receive their diplomas, there was an urgent call to go home. Their youngest son was rushed to the hospital because he was bitten by a mad dog.

In the graduation message, we emphasized the fact that this is only the beginning of their continuing study of the Word of God; and that after graduation we will place them in the front line of a great battle as soldiers of the cross. We assured them too, that should they abide in Christ all the time, they will bear much fruit by leading more souls to Christ.

Yes, there are problems in the field, we told them, but Christ said that all power in Heaven and on earth is available to His dedicated servants.

So we advised them that the first thing to do is to completely surrender their lives to Christ, thereby dropping all fears and cares. Like the queen Esther has said, "If I perish, I perish," if we die in the service of the Lord, so be it.

Our friends may help us in this endeavor, but God will help us the most. We have our counterpart; it may be our lives. We are persecuted now, and our lives are in danger because of the Muslim terrorists and all types of dangers around us. But we dare all these because for Jesus Christ's sake.

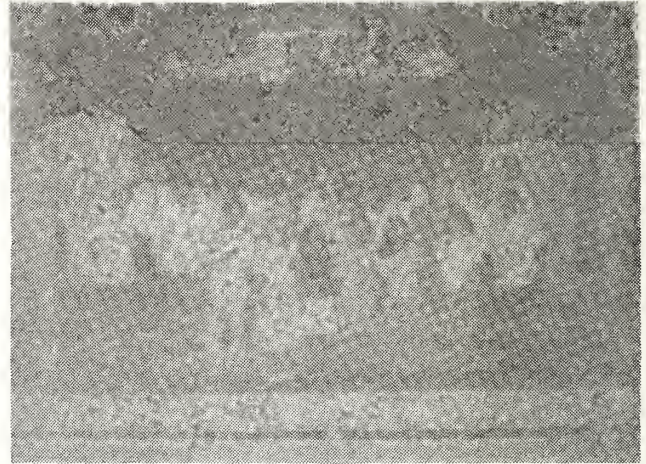
The harvest really is plenteous but our laborers are few. We are planning and praying that the Lord of the harvest will provide laborers whom we can place in all cities and capital towns of these aforementioned areas.

Our existing members and workers have relatives and friends in every city and capital towns of these wide areas. They will serve as church planters and nucleus or contacts whereby we can immediately begin the work in these places. For the moment, we do not have enough workers. I am the church planter who plants house churches in many cities and key towns in the different provinces. For example, in the city of Davao, one of our TEE graduates has eight children all working in that city as businessmen and high ranking government officials. I have also my sister and brother in-law who has been a town mayor and now works as a local government officer. My sister has already joined me as a worker in the Free Will Baptist Church. What is needed is to start the work. As a matter of fact, had brother Harold's and my flight for Davao City not been cancelled, the Free Will Baptist church would have been started there already.

The reason why we are targeting cities is to reach the middle and upper classes as well as the poor people, so our churches will become indigenous. If other evangelical denomination here, like Kiboly gourp, Bread of Life, etc. can fully support themselves and even send missionaries abroad, I cannot see any reason that the Free Will Baptists, Philippines cannot do the same. Of course, at the beginning we need your help as we are conquering the cities of Christ.

This writer is working day and night hoping that before his life ends, he will be able to produce leaders to accomplish this goal.

Do you want to be blessed more? Participate in any way you can in this great work for the Lord our God: Production of soldiers for the Cross who will conquer cities for Christ and thereby conquer of the world.



ANIL'S CALL OF GOD

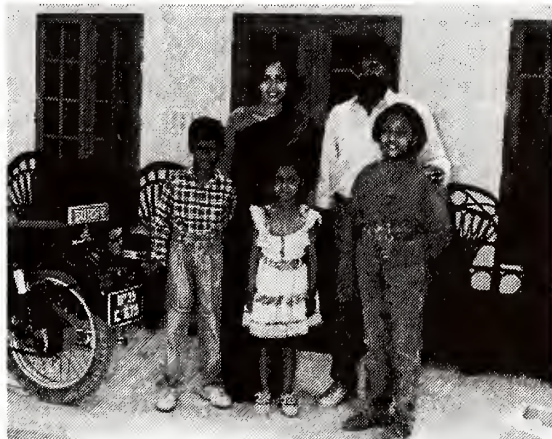
by Dr. E. M. Lall

My eldest son Anil Lall earned the Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Rohilkhand University at Bareilly in the year 1982. At that time we explored possibility for Anil to complete his Bachelor of Divinity Course and to serve the Lord in His Vineyard. However, contrary to our pursuit, he entered into the brass-ware business, along with a wholesale distributorship of dairy items in the city of Bareilly which was a Government Enterprise. He made a good deal of money, and, on account of some inconvenience, he switched over to the readymade garments business. His wife Maya is a designer who used to style a new fashion every time, and they had their own workshop. Their income was above average. However, subsequently there arose a slump in his business, and Anil picked up the job of the Manager in Eurka Forbs, a Foreign Firm, while Maya continued to design dresses for sale in the market.

We never thought Anil would ever come to do the Lord's work. However, suddenly he had a call from above and he was rather hesitant to disclose it to me since he had already rejected our cherished desire that he be a Minister of our church. I do not recollect in what circumstances our Mission Director, the Rev. Harold Jones brought him into effective service of our church. Anil and Maya secretly conversed with the Director when he visited with us last November in my absence. In fact, the Rev. Jones caught them at the right time and managed to send them to complete their course for the Bachelor of Divinity at Union Biblical Seminary (which is second to none in India) with a view to vouch for the future leadership of our church.

Anil's admission to the Seminary is also a miracle to me. Denominationalism is pretty strong in India, and, therefore, he was not admitted to two Theological Colleges. We kept fast and cried out to the Lord. Immediately thereafter, he was called for the test and interview whereas the selection had already taken place in December 1995. Anil passed the test and joined the Seminary on June 3, 1996 for the Bachelor of Divinity Course. His wife will join him for the course of Religious Education for two years from 1997. This is probably a course imparted free of cost.

We convery your prayers for Anil and his wife as they prepare for the future leadership in our church.



Anil leaving home for Seminary – B.D. Course



News From...

**MOUNT OLIVE
COLLEGE**

Martin Memorial Golf Tournament Held July 25

This year's Mike Martin Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament was held July 25 at the Southern Wayne Country Club. Proceeds from the golf tournament go toward the Michael L. Martin Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College. Each year, a scholarship is awarded to a deserving student golfer.

Mike Martin attended Mount Olive College in 1981 and 1982. Later he became a state trooper but was killed in the line of duty. Because he loved golf, his parents, Ann and A.N. Martin, established the endowed scholarship, which over the years has grown to more than \$41,000. The annual golf tournament is the principal source of funding; however, friends of Mike Martin contribute in honor of his memory.

Because the fund is growing, two scholarships were awarded last year for the first time. Recipients during the 1995-1996 academic year were James Jones of Arapahoe, NC, and Denton Lee of Clayton, NC.

The tournament has a history of being supported locally, especially by law enforcement officers. Organizers of this year's tournament were Mike's friends Jimmy Adams, Neil Price, Ray Gales and his father, A.N. Martin.



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

EVAN ROBERTS — A CHOSEN VESSEL

by Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth..." John 3:8.

In the study of the great revival movement of the past, it soon becomes evident that deep spiritual awakenings, whether in local churches or in whole countries, begin with desperate people like Hannah or David who seek the holy presence of a merciful God. Even so, God will answer prayers of desperate Christians — Christians who are tired and weary, cold and empty before God, whose mechanical services are but desperate rituals! Christians who are heartbroken over the deadness of the professing churches and over sinners going into eternity without Christ to be lost forever in the depths of hell become desperate and assault the throne of God in soul searching prayer. Even as they pray for God to open Heaven and release the power of His mighty Spirit to revive, to heal, and to bring redemptive joy, it can be a humbling and soul searching experience as the Spirit searches the heart and exposes one's own sins. Yet every outpouring of the Spirit is preceded by earnest, agonizing intercession accompanied by a heart broken, confession and humiliation before God.

Evan J. Roberts (1878–1951) of Wales knew the price, the pain, and the great joy of seeing the Holy Spirit move upon a people and a country, for he became the vessel of God's grace and glory in the great

revival that swept across Wales from September 1904 to June 1905. While many other persons played important roles in God's timing and plan that swept across Wales, Evan Roberts was a chosen instrument through whom God would accomplish a great ministry of revival and harvest of souls.

Roberts was a miner's son at Loughor where he attended the Calvinistic Methodist Church called Moriah Church. At the age of twelve he went into the coal mines upon the sickness of his father and by 1902 began to do the work of a blacksmith. Soon, thereafter, he felt the call to preach and went to the academy at Newcastle in 1904 to prepare for ministerial training. During the spring 1904, he had been repeatedly awakened from 1:00 AM to 5:00 AM by a sense of God's presence and communion with him, after which he would return to sleep.

For weeks and months Evan Roberts and some friends had been in agonizing prayer for Wales. At the prayer meeting near the end of September 1904, Evan Roberts prayed "Lord, bend me," upon which a deep sense of God's grace and the need to preach overwhelmed him. He drew out his meager savings from the bank and went home to Loughor to hold young peoples' meetings. There on October 31, 1904, Robert held his first meeting and had three conversions. On Tuesday, six more souls were converted to Christ. On Wednesday he gave his famous "Four Points" ser-

mon at Mount Pisgah Church near Loughor and more souls were saved. The four points became characteristic of his preaching style. The people were admonished to put away unconfessed sin, to give up doubtful habits, to obey the Spirit promptly, and to confess Christ publicly.

By the end of 1905, one hundred thousand persons were converted as Evan Roberts sought to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit and as people were fervently praying for revival. He was not the author of the Welsh Revival. The author of the Welsh Revival was none other than the Holy Spirit of God in answer to the deep and sincere prayers of His people who were willing to wrestle with God as Jacob did until the blessing of revival came like a mighty flood across the dry and thirsty land. The fire of God burned in towns and villages which he did not visit. In many of the places which he did visit, he found the fire of revival already there and his visit was only to fan the flame. Prayer, praise in ecstatic singing, and testimony of converts was emphasized with some meetings going until two or three o'clock in the morning. His prayer continued to be "Bend me, O Lord" as he prayed for revival and was the very vessel God was using to bring it into existence.

Whole communities were shaken under the power of the Spirit as revival continued to spread throughout Wales. In some cases at 6:00 AM, people would be awakened by the

sounds of the crowds going to the early morning prayer meeting. Entire town populations were being transformed into a praying multitude as people came to confess sin and turn to Christ for salvation.

Revival came to Wales in answer to prayer. It can and will come to the church and across America in

answer to desperate and agonizing prayer. It will come when God's people really want a heaven-sent revival and are willing to pay God's price and meet His conditions as given to us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 — "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and

turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

Even so, Lord, let the wind of your mighty Spirit blow across our land and "bend us" to Your gracious will.

Amen.

BYRAN GOES TO WASHINGTON

Mr. Bryan went to Washington. But he didn't go to testify before Congressional committees on the implications of raising the minimum wage, or on aviation safety, or tobacco issues. He went to participate in the National Leadership Conference of Phi Beta Lambda, a national organization for college business students.

Mr. Bryan is Mark Bryan, a 21-year-old Dudley resident who is employed part-time by Mt. Olive Pickle Company, and who is going to be a senior at Mount Olive College when classes resume in late August.

Last month, Bryan travelled to Washington, DC, as part of a delegation representing the North Carolina chapter. At the July 13-16 conference, he attended meetings and seminars and participated in a competition testing business knowledge. Bryan's specialty was finance.

Bryan was invited to attend the conference on the strength of an excellent showing by the Mount Olive College chapter at the state's leadership conference held in Raleigh last April. Bryan, seven other students, and two faculty members represented Mount Olive and brought home awards and recognition in 10 categories. Mount Olive's chapter is one of 36 college and university chapters in the state, according to Ms. Sonja McCoy, assistant professor of business and faculty advisor.

Because Bryan scored well in the finance category, he was invited to Washington. Ms. McCoy and fellow students, Byran Hedrick, accompanied him from Mount Olive. Hedrick is president of the college's chapter.

"We did well at the state level competing against students from other business programs," Bryan said. "It was an honor for me to represent Mount Olive College and North Carolina at the national conference."

Bryan is majoring in business management. He expects to graduate next May with a Bachelor of Science degree and his place in a junior management position in eastern North Carolina's business community. He is not exactly sure where that will be. In the meantime, he's doing what he can to prepare himself.

"The business world excites me," Bryan said. "There are always problems to solve and obstacles to overcome."

As he gets closer to graduation, Bryan said that he is getting a keener sense about how business is conducted.

"It's been a combination of things," Bryan said. "My business courses are giving me the foundation and theory. Phi Beta Lambda goes beyond the classroom with workshops, projects and guest speakers, and working in the business office at Mt. Olive Pickle Company for the second year is giving me the real world dimension."

In addition to the honor and the learning opportunity that attending the Phi Beta Lambda's National Leadership Conference presents, Bryan was excited to be visiting Washington, DC, because it was his first time there. He had driven by Washington a number of times, but he had never stopped to see the sights until last month.

"Seeing the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum, the White House, and the Capital were awesome," Bryan said.

Now he thinks that he may want to return to Washington in a few years to represent North Carolina's business interests. In the meantime, he's got a year of school to finish.



MOUNT OLIVE
COLLEGE



Cragmont Is an Upper Room!

It must have been a time of great and confusing feelings. They are all gathered there, in the upper room: the disciples and all the others who would wait for the Promise. They are under tremendous pressure from their religious leaders: after all, they had just killed Jesus. It was dangerous to be identified with that man.

And yet they gathered.

They were told that a Comforter would come: baptism by fire. The future was unclear and death was probably waiting at the end of this road.

And yet they gathered.

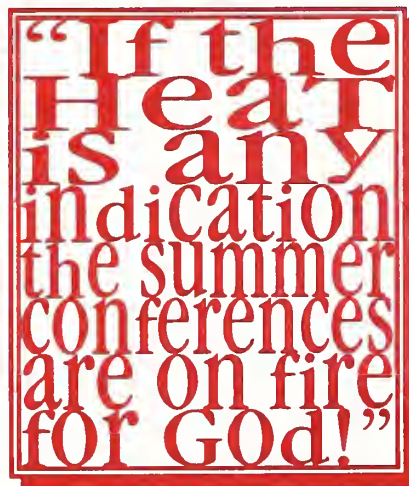
Anticipation, anxiousness, hope, bewilderment. They are all just words. But they are words that paint a picture of the birth of a Holy Nation. Just as the Olympic torch makes its way to expectant towns, so the coming of the Holy Spirit was also by fire, falling like rain on souls who would forever change the course of history. This was a turning-point for the world.

Thank God they gathered.

Cragmont has been an upper-room for the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. As people gathered here over the years, of all ages, Cragmont has been a place of fire for some, a place of hope for others. With every new flame of faith, with every answered call to the ministry, with every soul that has found peace here,

Cragmont continues to be a vital place where the Holy Spirit continues to work year-round.

Our thanks goes out to all of those group-leaders and pastors who worked hard putting together retreats and ski-trips for the gathering this winter. Our thanks goes out to all those groups who were patient with us and the construction during the spring. Our thanks goes out to all the conference directors who make the summer



gathering spectacular each year. Our thanks goes out to all those who gather with us each fall celebrating the beauty of God's earth and the place he has ordained to be Cragmont.

May the gathering continue.

God Is Here!

As always, the summer conferences are making us, young and old, stop and think about God and His place in our lives. During the Women's

conference, they studied the Fruit of the Spirit. The Minister's conference celebrated its 50th anniversary of gathering at Cragmont. The Christian Cadets conference worshipped "God who is able." Both the YFA and AFC conferences searched for what was Right from Wrong. We're looking for the good times and teaching to continue!

The weather's been really hot. But brief rains have recently cooled things considerably. In fact, the temperature got down in the sixties some mornings! But even with the cool nights there was always the need for a fan during the day.

Between the great conference programs and the weather, the 1996 camp season has been rich and meaningful. And if the heat is any indication the summer conferences are on fire for God!

Renovation Update: Now for the Hard Part!

With gladness and a great deal of satisfaction, we have welcomed the summer conferences and campers into the renovated section of the Main Building and all the other parts of the campus facilities that received needed face-lifts. Now we face the hardest part of completing this challenge: the cost. We still need your help to pay for making Cragmont a more attractive and

C R A G M O N T



safer place. Please fill out the pledge form below and return it to:

Renovation Project
c/o Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

We thank all those who have already given and thank you in advance for your prayers and consideration.

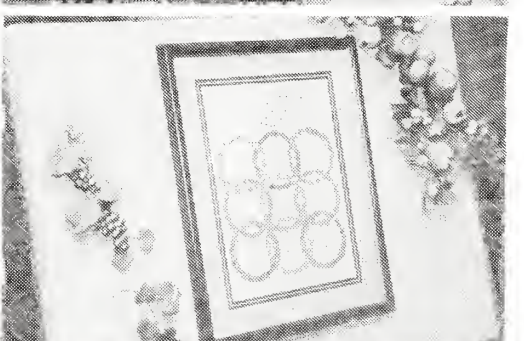
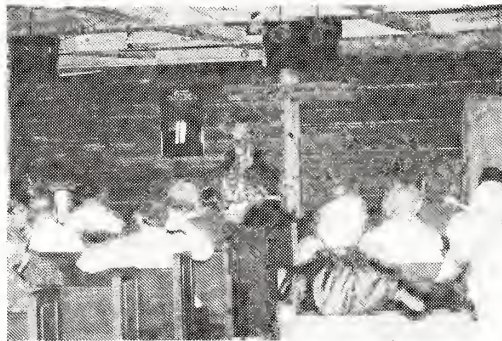
PLEDGE FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

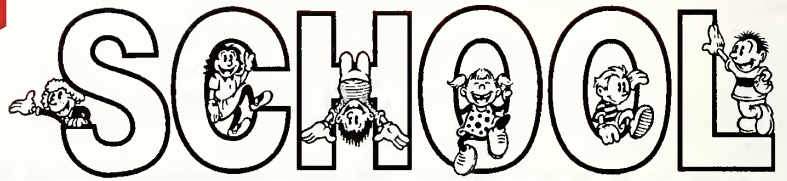
Church: _____

Amount of Pledge: _____



August

Getting Ready To Go Back To



SUN	MON	TUE	
28	29	30	31
4	5	6	7 + C M
11	12	13 + Executive Committee Meeting, Headquarters, 10:00 AM + Retirement Homes Board Meeting, Headquarters, 10:00 AM	14
18	19 * All Conference Moderators meet with Executive Adminis- trator at Mount Olive College, 11:00 AM	20 + FWB Press Board Meeting, Headquarters, 1:00 PM * All Conference Ordaining Councils meet with Executive Administrator at Mount Olive College, 11:00 AM	21
25	26	27	28

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRE



vious/following month

ent month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- ✚ FWB Convention News
- ✚ FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Home Missions
- ◆ Layman's League
- ✿ Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- ☼ Woman's Auxiliary

THU		FRI	SAT
	1 ✚ Task Force Committee Meeting, 1st FWB, Greenville 10:00 AM	2	3
ance Board Headquarters 10:00 AM	8 Cragmont Golf Tournament at Happy Vally	9	10 ✚ Cragmont Board Meeting ✚ FWB Material Deadline
	15	16	17 OFWB Family Day at Kings Dominion Piedmont Conference at East Rockingham
	22	23	24
	29	30	31

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

CELEBRATE THE VICTORY

Silver Creek Becomes a Church

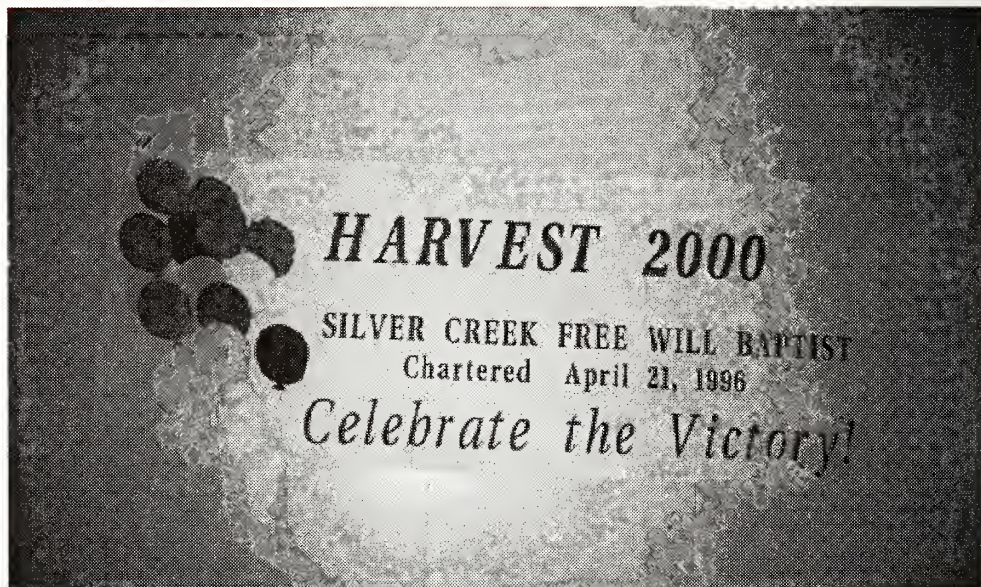
Long years of prayer, struggle and hope finally come to full fruition. On April 21, 1996, Silver Creek officially became Silver Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church.

The members and pastor, the Reverend Terry Ellis, are filled with joy and are very glad to be able to share their joy with the rest of the Denomination. The Reverend Chris Singleton, moderator of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, and other members of the Executive Committee assembled with the

members and guests to complete the process of a mission's becoming a church. At the invitation of the moderator, the Reverend Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention, read and explained the Church Covenant.

The Reverend David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism addressed the assembly as did several others and the Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to the new church

by the representatives of the Eastern Conference. The new Church desires the prayers of all that they will follow the call of our Lord in Ministry.



**HOME MISSIONS
& EVANGELISM**
— of ORIGINAL —
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Features

Ministerial Association Observes Fiftieth Anniversary

by C. H. Overman



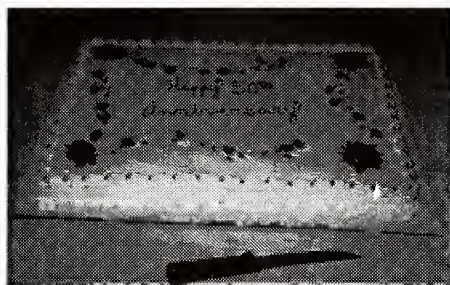
More than ninety ministers attended the Fiftieth Session of the Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists, held at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC, June 10-13, 1996. Others in attendance included a number of minister's wives.

The session began on Monday evening with a program that included a video of early minister's conferences and personalities. This was followed with a "I remember when..." session in which various ministers recalled something special about the early meetings of the Association. The video was compiled by the Rev. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The original filming was done by the Rev. J. C. Griffin and L. E. Ballard, during the early years of the Association.

Speakers for the Fiftieth Session and their topics were: Dr. Michael Pelt, "Why Should We Be Concerned with History?"; the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, "The Ministerial Code of Ethics"; Dr. W. Burkette Raper, "Core Beliefs and Values." The Wednesday morning worship

service was led by the Rev. Carol B. Hansley, who was in attendance at the 1946 session of the Association. The Communion Service on Wednesday evening was conducted by the Rev. Ralph Sumner. A Golden Anniversary reception was held on Tuesday evening, at

which time everyone enjoyed refreshments which included a "Fiftieth Anniversary" cake.



The annual business session was held on Tuesday evening, beginning at 7:00, under the capable leadership of the Rev. Jeff Daughtry. The first item called for the report of the Biographical Committee in which the names and brief information was given pertaining to ministers who had passed away during the year. Included also were deceased minister's wives and also certain lay persons.

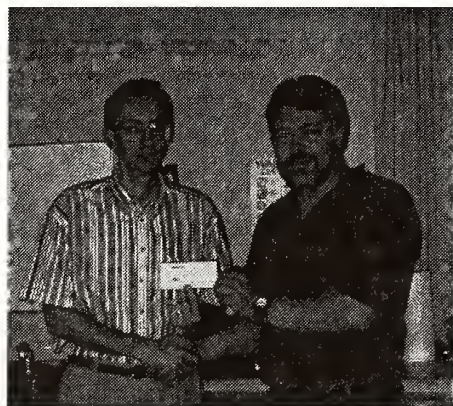
The Scholarship Committee reported a total of more than \$7,000 in the combined funds. The Resolution Committee's report was adopted, with the following resolutions being adopted: 1. "...that this Ministerial Association appoint person or persons to record and

preserve a video history of those attending each session, including portions of the programs, and that the Association bear all the expense for this historical record. 2. In view of the fact that this is the 50th anniversary of our Ministerial Association meeting at Cragmont; therefore, be it resolved: a. that we pledge ourselves to the continual support and growth of this Ministerial Association; b. that we reaffirm our commitment to the continuity and enhancement of our Original Free Will Baptist heritage; c. that we renew our commitment to the principles and precepts of our Minister's Code of Ethics. 3. Because of the critical role of history and its lessons for our church: Be it resolved that this Association present a resolution of appreciation to Dr. Michael Pelt for the many hours of work and research for the book on Original Free Will Baptist history he has written... 4. Be it resolved that we extend our appreciation to: a. retiring officers of our Association; b. the well-planned program of this session; c. the hospitality and work of the management and staff of Cragmont Assembly in hosting this conference." (Note: the Rev. C. H. Overman accepted the responsibility referred in Resolution No. 1.)

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented, and the following officers were elected to serve two-year terms: President, the Rev. Harold Swinson; Vice-President, the Rev. Billy Hardee; Secretary, the Rev. Philip Boykin; Treasurer, the Rev. Doug Skinner. In

Minsiterial Association Observes Fiftieth Anniversary Cont....—

addition, the Rev. Leon Grubbs was elected to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund; the Rev. C. H. Overman and Earl Glenn were elected to the Advisory Committee for the



Pastor's School.

In observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary, the Association voted to contribute \$500 to Cragmont Assembly, to help in the present renovation of the Assembly.

Pictured is the Rev. John Williams, manager of Cragmont Assembly, as he receives the \$500 check from the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, outgoing president of the Association.

Other motions passed by the Association were: that name tags be provided for next year's session; that the messages of this year's program be submitted to "The Free Will Baptist" for publication; that recipients of the Ministerial Scholarship be encouraged to attend the Association; that the Executive Committee be given the authority to reprint the Minister's Code of Ethics.

Remarks made by various ministers regarding this year's session indicated a spirit of harmony and true fellowship. Let us hope that when the Association meets in its fifty-first annual session, that this bond shall become even stronger and that from now on there will be more than 100 in attendance.

— REMEMBERING THE PAST —

(Message given by Michael Pelt at the Ministerial Association Fiftieth Session)

Text: Isaiah 51:1-3

The words of this text were spoken by a prophet who was addressing the Jewish exiles in Babylonia. It seems that those in his audience had become so immersed in their present surroundings that they had all but given up hope of returning to their homeland. The ravages of war which left their cities in ruins had decimated their numbers and undermined their confidence in the future. (For the outlook of some exiles read Psalm 137:1-6.) But as time passed and many of the older generation were laid to rest in a foreign land, some of those remaining, as well as the young generation among the exiles, had begun to make an adjustment to the Babylonian way of life. These were not so easily persuaded that their future lay in returning to the ruins of Jerusalem or other cities and towns which they or their fathers had left behind. As you read Chapter 40-55 in the Book of Isaiah, you get the distinct impression that the prophet was addressing a people who were reluctant to put their trust in the God of Israel. If they had not completely abandoned their faith in the God who had performed great works in Israel's past, they despaired of seeing any fulfillment of His promises for their future. To them it was much more practical to accept their present fate and to see it as punishment for the sins or else to believe that the gods of Babylon were more powerful than the God of Abraham and of Moses. For this reason the prophet declared that his people had already suffered enough, that they had received from the Lord's hand double for all their sins. While Jerusalem lay in ruins, the Lord announced in the Council of Heaven that He is about to come and save His people and lead them through the wilderness in a triumphant return to Zion and to a restored Jerusalem (Isaiah 40:1-11). This redeeming action of Israel's God would be so clear and certain, to use the words of the prophet, that "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Isaiah 52:10).

The prophet who addressed these exiles in Babylonia simply would not give up his attempt to fire the imagination and inspire the confidence of his people. One of his methods of appealing to the exiles was that of repeated references to Israel's past, a past in which God had shown His love for His people. This is matched by even more impressive descriptions of an imminent coming of the Lord to save His people, an event that will mark the end of history and the triumph of God's redemptive purpose. His announcement to God's intention to save His people makes this prophet the messenger of "good news," a theme that the early church was later to use in declaring both to Israel and to the Gentile world what God had done and was doing in Jesus Christ.

Why does this prophet, like some others before him, make repeated appeals to Israel's past? Why does he feel that his audience needs to be reminded of past events in their history? Not because he wanted to "turn back the clock" or seek refuge in some former time that may have been regarded as an ideal age. This is why some people love to dwell on the past, but it is not a profitable thing to do, and it is not what this prophet had in mind.

1. The recollection of the past was Israel's way of bearing witness to her faith in the Lord God. God had made Himself known by His great deeds in this people's past. The call of Abraham, the exodus from Egypt, the guidance in the wilderness, the conquest of Canaan, the establishment of the kingdom of Israel — these were the great events through which Israel came to know and to trust her God and to seek His purpose in her history. The past was meaningful to her. It gave Israel reason to believe that God was guiding the destiny of this people. It also provided a basis for her expectation that God would fulfill his ultimate purpose for all nations through them. Thus the calling of Abraham was not only the beginning of a great people; it was also the beginning of salvation history, the first step in God's plan to bring His blessings to the nations of the world. Israel recalled that God said to Abraham, "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

The recollection of a particular series of events of the past is also a vital part of our witness as Christians. In this role of witnessing to our faith we are aided by the testimony of those who were eyewitnesses of the ministry, death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who gave us that testimony in the New Testament. Every time we read the Bible or recall in worship or personal testimony the great themes of our faith, we acknowledge a debt to a particular set of events in the past that have brought salvation and life to all who believe. It is not that we simply recall these things, but that we actually participate in the meaning of these events concerning our Lord so as to receive the promised salvation. The old spiritual says it best: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord? ... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble."

Recalling certain events in her past also inspired Israel to worship, to offer praise and thanksgiving. Consider the many psalms in that collection called the Book of Psalms in which a rehearsal of past events was meant to prompt words of praise and thanksgiving and to remind the worshiper that the Lord's covenant love endures forever (Psalm 135:1, 10-22). Psalm 105 tells the story of God's great deeds which created the nation of Israel. Its mood is one of grateful recollection. It begins and ends with the words, "Praise the Lord!" Hallelujah! In contrast Psalm 106 recalls many of the same events in which God showed His love for this people but they either rebelled against Him or they forgot His works of mercy. The mood of this Psalm is a somber one. It was used in Israel's worship as a call to repentance and confession of sin. So the recollection of the past could also become an occasion to repent of sin and return to the God of Israel.

2. Israel remembered the past for another good reason. It was her own particular experiences as a people which gave her a sense of identity. Without this memory of her past, Israel would have suffered the same fate as other nations and peoples of the world. Her defeat at the hands of other nations, like Babylonians, would have brought an end to her role in human

history. But in her case the end of the nation did not mean the end of Israel. This was because she was essentially a people who had been brought into existence as by the hand of God. The recollection of a past in which God was revealed as their Redeemer and as the Lord of history, gave them a reason for being and a sense of purpose that sustained them in the present trouble and led them to expect greater things in the future.

We who are here today know who we are because we have a memory of the past. The identity of every individual is bound up with his or her awareness of past experiences. If a person suffers from amnesia, the sense of personal identity is lost. Anyone who thinks that the past is unimportant does not know what to make of the present. In recent years we have been hearing much about Alzheimer's disease. Have you ever known someone who had this disease? A patient who suffers from this disease gradually loses the ability to remember. At first the symptoms are mild, but then they become so prominent that the sufferers do not recognize members of their own family. One can only imagine what this does to people's understanding of their own identity. In a similar way, people who neglect their heritage from the past are likely to lose their perspective on life. We are able to make sense out of what is happening to us and around us only if we can connect it with things that have happened before. That is one reason a study of the past is important for any person or any people. In this regard our family ties and our family history become a valuable resource in helping us to know just who we are. Similarly, a knowledge of our nation's history helps us to identify ourselves as Americans, and a knowledge of human history can help us to be aware of how we arrived at our place in the modern world.

We know who we are as Christians because we have identified ourselves with a community of faith that is rooted in a particular past, a past which goes all the way back to Jesus Christ and the nucleus of his followers who became known as the Church. The Christian Church has a long a varied history, which at times has been noble and at

other times is burdened with a little band of disciples who came to believe that He was the Messiah. *This is the rock from which we were hewn and the quarry from which we were dug* (see Isaiah 51:1). We also know that we are a people called Free Will Baptists because we are aware of a heritage belonging to this people, and we have identified ourselves with that heritage. To the extent that we are unaware of the heritage, our commitment to the Free Will Baptist Church and the values which it represents will be diminished.

3. The prophet who addressed the exiles in Babylonia and counseled them to "look to the rock from which you were hewn" was, of course, referring to Abraham (see Verse 2). Abraham was regarded as the father of this people as every Israelite knew. This appeal to the memory of Abraham had a specific purpose behind it. When God called Abraham, he was but one man. Yet, the prophet said, "God blessed him and made him many" (see Verse 2). God had multiplied his descendants and continued his blessing upon Abraham in the generations which sprang from him. To those Jews living in exile this was a reminder that God could multiply their offspring and bless them as he did their father Abraham. The prophet's appeal to the memory of Israel's past, represented here in Abraham, was intended to *inspire* the hope of his people in the future, which would again be the scene of God's saving activity. The prophet declares, "For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her thanksgiving and the voice of song" (NRSV). The rapture of a poet has taken hold of the mind of this prophet. Here and elsewhere the prophet speaks of the final salvation of God's people. How much like another passage from this prophet found in Isaiah 52:7-10. The end will be like the beginning, a paradise, an Eden, and all mankind will see the salvation of our God. No wonder that these themes were taken up in the message of the Early Church and are resounded in the words of the New Testament. They have also been part of

the message of the Church throughout much of its history.

There is a message in the prophet's words for us today. At those times when we become anxious about what is going to become of the Church, we too need to recall that it with a very small number that Christ chose to launch this movement, a movement that has since embraced countless millions of people. To us the words of the prophet Zechariah, who sought to encourage his people to continue with the rebuilding of the temple at Jerusalem after their return from exile, we dare not despise the day of small things (Zechariah 4:10). When the church suffers from an inferiority complex in a world that dazzles the imagination with its possibilities and its problems, we need to remember that little circle of Jesus' disciples to whom our Lord did not hesitate to entrust his mission to the world.

We as Free Will Baptists have at times wondered about our future, especially when we were rocked by serious crises that left us, as a denomination, weakened and divided. But if we are willing to examine our history, we can find ample evidence of God's working in the lives of faithful few. Just as Israel could look back into the past and see the sins her people and the results of misplaced judgment on the part of their leaders, so we too can examine our history and be fully aware of the failures of the past. Yet we can also be reassured by those times when God was able to work through individuals and congregations to preserve our faith and our heritage. The life and word of Paul Palmer in North Carolina in the second quarter of the eighteenth century is a great example to inspire confidence and hope. When he began to preach the gospel, he was the only minister of Baptist faith in North Carolina. He was soon joined by others, and in a few years there were several congregations of General Baptists.

We have seen how the Jews saw their numbers drastically reduced by the effects of the Babylonian invasion of Judah. Their cities were left in ruins, and their lives completely disrupted. Of course, our spiritual forebears did not experience the suffering which the

Jews had to endure, nor were they removed by their foes from the land of their birth. But as a denomination we have at times known the disruption of our churches and the loss of pastors and their flocks as a result of influences that penetrated our ranks and left us weakened and divided.

The first such disruption occurred not many years after Paul Palmer had died. In the 1750s, representatives of the Philadelphia Baptist Association came among the General Baptists and persuaded four churches to disband on the grounds that they were not true churches because many of their members had been baptized without having had an "experience of grace." They then reorganized these churches, admitting to membership only those who upon examination could satisfy the ministers that they were among the elect, for only the elect could be saved and their election was to be verified by giving a narrative testimony of their conversion experience. It has been estimated that only about five percent of the original members of these churches were admitted to membership in the reorganized churches. The rest were simply excluded. Other churches were later persuaded to follow the example of these four churches by their pastors, who had been converted to Calvinist doctrines, including election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and eternal security. The tragedy is that only a few ministers, like Joseph and William Parker and John Winfield, were able to deal with these alien doctrines and thereby save their churches from these will-meaning plunders. The lamp of faith among so many of these humble and ill-informed General Baptists was almost extinguished. For decades they struggled along and were able to survive by holding fast to that heritage which their fathers had brought across the Atlantic from England.

Fifty years after the incursion of Particular Baptist influence, Jesse Heath entered the ministry in 1807. Twenty years later he wrote a letter to the editor of *The Morning Star*, a church paper that was being published by New England Free Will Baptists. In it he reflected on the state of the churches when he entered the ministry in 1807.

There were but three ministers and five churches, he wrote. Yet this remnant of General Baptist had kept the faith as indicated by the Articles of Faith which Jesse Heath and James Roach prepared in 1812. This statement of faith was a revision of the Standard Confession of 1660. Soon this little group of churches belonging to the conference began to see their numbers increase and new churches organized far beyond their expectations. They were set to reap a harvest in the most far-reaching revival that this country has ever witnessed — the Second Great Awakening or the Great Revival, as it was known in the South.

A reading of our history will show that even when our numbers were reduced by unforeseen circumstances, there have always been those who were stable, like a rock, and who became a source of strength to others. This was because they knew in whom they believed and they understood what they believed and were intelligent and wise enough to recognize truth and the bearers of truth and to turn away from what merely poses as the truth.

The labors of Jesse Heath and others in the early nineteenth century, at a time when our numbers had been reduced to a very few ministers and congregations, in an indication that faithfulness and wise leadership can produce results. Every local church begins with a few men and women who believe that God has entered into covenant with them in Jesus Christ and they simply give themselves to the Lord and to each other to walk in God's ways and to share the good news of His everlasting grace with those who will listen. This is not only how local churches begin, but it is also how they prosper and fulfill the purpose for which they are brought into being. Let us therefore dedicate ourselves to be the church and to fulfill its mission in the place where we are found, to the glory of God and the salvation of all those who hear the gospel through our testimony. And let us not despise our heritage, but let us seek to understand it so that our labors will be more fruitful in building up the body of Christ as it is represented by Original Free Will Baptists.

CAROLINA BIBLE INSTITUTE

SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL SESSION FALL SEMESTER

Fall Semester will begin on Monday, August 26, 1996 and run through December 20, 1996. Registration is now open for the classes offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. All classes will begin 7:30 PM (these times can be adjusted if acceptable by all class members), each class night. Classes to be taught on:

MONDAY:

Homiletics I	3 Hrs Credit	7:30 – 8:30
Preaching	3 Hrs Credit	8:30 – 9:30

TUESDAY:

The Pastoral Epistles	3 Hrs Credit	7:30 – 8:30
Leadership in Ministry	3 Hrs Credit	8:30 – 9:30

THURSDAY

Bible Chronology	6 Hrs Credit	7:30 – 9:30
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PRE-REGISTRATION for any of these classes can be done any time from now to the beginning of the class by contacting the office of Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary by telephone (919) 965-6364 or (919) 284-6106, between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Let us hear from you so we can better make arrangements for the books and other materials needed for the classes.

PRAYER NEEDS Please pray for the financial needs of Carolina Bible Institute. You are the only people that we have to turn to for support. This Bible Institute is doing as much as any other organization for Free Will Baptist to train Ministers called of God to fill the pulpits in our churches. **WE SHOULD BE IN THE BUDGET OF EVERY CHURCH IN THE DENOMINATION.**

The Family That Prays Together Stays Together!!!

REGISTER NOW!

Early registration helps us here at the school to be better prepared to begin classes with books and other needs available at the beginning of school.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

The new book, *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, written by Dr. Floyd Cherry is now available through the Bookstore of Carolina Bible Institute & Seminary. The cost of the book is \$5.83 plus shipping and handling, or a total cost of \$7.00. Make your check payable to Carolina Bible Institute in the above amount and send the request to:

CAROLINA BIBLE INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 280 • Pine Level, NC 27865
Telephone (919) 965-6364 or (919) 284-6106

For some time we have been concerned over the leadership in the pulpits of the Original Free Will Baptist Churches. There have been surveys taken in work by our State Convention and it seems that everyone has this same concern. Those churches that find themselves without a pastor and have to start searching for a leader know the frustrations that are encountered with such a problem.

If Free Will Baptists are to successfully fill the need of leadership in their ranks, we need to begin to find the answers rather than identify the problem.

As a step toward this solution, I would like to propose steps toward making this possible. Here at Carolina Bible Institute & Seminary, our plans are to take a new look at the training that we will be giving in order to produce the Ministers that will be able to cope with the problems of Leadership.

We will be working toward taking the men that God calls and developing them into ministers that will be that kind of leaders. We believe that ministers should be:

1. Chosen by God himself.

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John" (John 1:6).

It is God the Father, who has called and chosen you to be a minister. You have been given the highest privilege in all the world. As a minister you have been called by the LORD GOD Himself.

2. Chosen by Jesus Christ.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give you" (John 15:16).

If the Son of the living God, Christ Jesus, as called and chosen you to be a minister, He has chosen you to go and bear fruit among men. You are the most privileged person in all the world; you have been chosen to be a minister — chosen by Jesus Christ himself.

3. Chosen by the Holy Spirit.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the *Holy Ghost hath made you overseers*, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

It is the Holy Spirit of God that has called you to be a minister. He has chosen you so that He can live in you. You are His channel, His person through whom He can live and work in our churches. The Holy Spirit wants to:

- a. Use your body and your life to show how a person is to live.
- b. Conform you to the image of Christ. Make you an example of the world — an example for all people to live by.
- c. Use you to preach and teach the wonderful, glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You have been given the most glorious privilege in all the world. You have been called and Chosen by God himself, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit to proclaim to a lost world that is reeling under the weight of sin. You can deliver them only as you are faithful to your calling.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

When you pray for the work of Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary, and each time you make a contribution either directly or through your church, you are supporting the type of ministry that is described above. I trust that you will join us today in making a school that will hold to the principles listed above and take those that God has called and give them the training that is uniquely planned for the future of Free Will Baptists.

Carolina Bible Institute's Annual Friendship Banquet

To God be the glory, great things He has done. We the alumni of CBI invites all the supporters and friends of CBI to our Annual Friendship Banquet. This is CBI's way of saying thanks for all you have done. It is God's blessing, and His people giving financially that has enabled CBI to continue training God's people for ministry. This will be an evening of Thanks, Worship, and Praise to God the Father that you will not want to miss.

Place: Stoney Creek FWB Fellowship Hall

Date: August 31, 1996

Time: 6:00 PM

For our preparation of the meal we need for you to confirm your attendance by calling CBI (919-965-6364) and let us know how many will be coming with you.

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

Camp has gotten off to a good start. Our staff has been working very hard and they have done an excellent job in getting things up and running.

Our pier is finished. Praise the Lord! This was a big project, and now God has blessed us with its completion. We are thankful to the Lord as well as to those who came and worked so faithfully on this project. It is a nice pier, and it is a blessing as well as an asset to our camp. We are proud of it, we invite you to come and try it out. They tell me the fishing is very good.

Remember we do have camp sites available. If you would like to bring your camper, stay a few days, relax, go fishing — we would be very pleased to have you on our campus. The camping sites are far enough away from the main activities of the camp that you would not be disturbed by our campers.

It is not too late to register for camp. There are a few weeks left. If you have any questions you can call any camp director or our general manager.

Also we have our family sleeping lodge that you may rent for a stay at the camp. If you do not like camping or do not have a camper, the family lodge is just what you are looking for. Our rooms are very nice, they have two double beds, a sleeper sofa, and plenty of room for those younger ones who would enjoy sleeping in a sleeping bag. Each room has an air conditioner, private bath, microwave oven, and small refrigerator. We do ask that you bring your bed linens, and bath items. The family lodge is only \$25.00 per night. You cannot beat that even at the motel where they leave the light on. If you have a large group than we can accommodate in the family lodge, yet not large enough for the dorm, we have the house available.

Mr. Aldric Gaskins, our new manager, and his wife Julia Ann are working hard to continue to improve our camp. They are presently doing some work on the house. One improvement is a camp office in the front room so everyone will know where to report in and where to go to tell the staff what a fine job they are doing. They have also made a frame for a new king-size bed for Mr. Ralph, our General Manager, when he comes to stay a while. We had some king-size mattresses donated to the camp but we did not have any frames, so Aldric made one. We tease Ralph — we tell him he is the only one at the camp who has his own king-size bed.

Let me suggest that you invite our new manager, as well as his wife, to come to your church and tell you all that is going on at the camp. You may contact Aldric at the camp's new address, 215 3rd Street, Vandemere, NC 28587, phone 919-745-3171.

We have had several families to come and stay at the camp. The Smith family, a gospel group from Whiteville, came and enjoyed a time of R & R. The Rev. Calvin Heath and his family also came and spent a few days for some fishing and swimming. Others have come just for a day of fun.

What are you waiting for? Bring a picnic lunch and check us out one day. Aldric and Julia Ann will be happy to show you our facilities.

Camp Address and Phone:
Camp Vandemere
215 3rd Street
Vandemere, NC 28587
919-745-3171

General Manager:
Rev. Ralph Sumner
571 Sumner Road
Pink Hill, NC 28572
910-298-5885

Treasurer:
Mrs. Judith Kennedy
933-N NC 41
Pink Hill, NC 28572
910-298-4311

Submitted by: Rev. Owen Arthur

for your **FYI** *information*

? ? ?

Interested In Writing?

The Free Will Baptist Press is looking for persons interested in writing Sunday School Literature. A meeting of present and perspective writers has been set for 6:00 PM on Tuesday, August 13, 1996. The meeting will be held at the FWB Press, 811 N. Lee Street, Ayden, NC.

If you are interested in writing, don't let this opportunity pass you by, join us as we explore the spreading of God's Word through the printed pages of our literature.

If you have any questions please contact Tracy McCoy, at 746-6128 or 1-800-849-3927.

Dinner will be served, please RSVP by August 9, so we can insure enough food for everyone.

PASTOR NEEDED

Sidney FWB Church is searching for a full-time pastor.

If you are interested contact:
Mr. Edward Clayton
394 S. Savannah Road
Belhaven, North Carolina 27810
919-964-4752

PASTOR AVAILABLE

The Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez is available for full-time or part-time pastorate.

You can contact him at:
Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez
6140 Black Creek Road
Smithfield, North Carolina 27577
919-934-4414

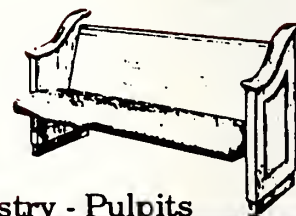
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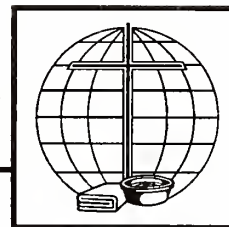
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News Release:

Sidney FWB Church

PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNIZED



Sidney FWB Church recently recognized Sunday school students for perfect attendance for 1995-96. Each student was awarded a trophy during their recognition ceremony. Pictured from left to right are: Front Row; Carter Burbage, Kasey Clayton, Tara Clayton. Second Row; Kyle Burbage, Andrew Grubbs, Kenneth Davis, Callie Leigh, Mary Beth Burbage. Back Row; Kendall Leigh, Stephen Poole, Matthew Grubbs, Chad Poole. Not pictured, Nathaniel Grubbs.

POOLE BROTHERS ATTENDANCE STREAK CONTINUES



Chad and Stephen Poole, both members of Sidney FWB Church have attended Sunday school 14 and 17 years respectively, without missing a single Sunday school lesson. Stephen, "the Cal Ripken of Sidney Sunday school," pictured right, has been in 884 consecutive Sunday school sessions. Congratulations to both of these outstanding young men.

NEWS FROM ELM GROVE

MOTHERS AND FATHERS HONORED

On May 12, Mother's Day, the mothers were honored. Every mother was given a pretty pot holder. The oldest mother, Mrs. Ethel Chambers age 87, was given a *Mother's Ideals Book* and her granddaughter, Karen Smith age 27, was also given a *Mother's Ideal Book* for being the youngest mother.

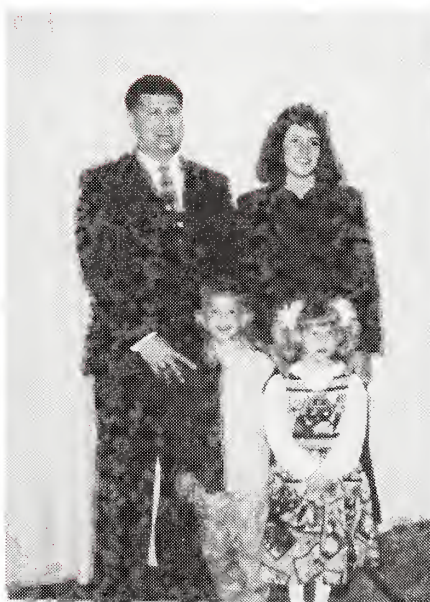
On June 16, Father's day, the fathers were honored. Every father was given a ribbon book mark. The oldest father, Mr. Jim Bryan age 91, was given a coffee mug and the youngest father, Wesley Smith, was also given a coffee mug.

New Pastor

Sunday, June 16, was a very special day at Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. In a very special installation service, conducted by Dr. David Hines, the Rev. Frankie Baggett was installed as pastor of the church. Mr.

Baggett graduated from Mount Olive College in 1988, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Psychology; attended the U.S. Army Chaplain training course in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey in 1992, graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1994 with a Master of Divinity Degree in Christian Education, and is presently working on a Doctorate of Ministry Degree at Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

After the service everyone enjoyed lunch with Frankie, his wife Debra and children Trey and Chandler.





Happenings at Rock Springs FWB Church

Last August God sent to us a man who is truly a servant of God for our new pastor. The Rev. M. E. Cox and his wife, Maxine are dedicated to God and his work. Many new activities have been started since they have been here. This couple sincerely believe that we need to stay busy in the Lord's work. We pray that under their leadership, we become what God wants us to be and live closer to Him each day.

On the first Tuesday in February, all Senior Citizens and some who were not that age, were invited to meet in our Fellowship Hall for an organization meeting and program of the "Joy Club." After officers were elected, choruses sung and devotions, we had lunch that had been brought by the women. Each month we have a good attendance and look forward to this meeting.

A special service honoring the men of our Church was held on a Saturday night before Father's Day. The women planned and furnished the food for the evening meal. After the meal everyone went into our sanctuary for the program. Following the opening songs, a plaque was presented from the Woman's Auxiliary to the men of the Church in appreciation for their "teamwork" contributions. A child of each family read a short letter that they had written honoring their Dad by telling what he meant to them, and in ways that he showed he loved them. A prayer of dedication by our pastor at the altar closed the service.

The congregation of Rock Springs is truly blessed to have the Rev. and Mrs. Cox to lead us and we pray that this memorable time will continue as long as God sees it fit to use them here.

Submitted by
Elizabeth G. Whitley

ANNUAL LABOR DAY HOTDOG SALE AND BAZAAR

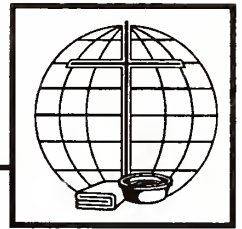
Date: Saturday, August 31 and Monday, September 2

Time: Begins at 8 AM and ends when the last hotdog is sold

Place: Intersection of Hwy 39 and Hwy 231 (Emit Plaza),
(Just a few minutes from the famous "5-Country Stadium.")

We will have our famous "HOTDOGS" for sale. \$1 buys a hotdog and a drink. There will also be lots of homemade pies, cakes, and goodies. As well as an assortment of homemade crafts and canned goods. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship. All proceeds benefit the upbuilding of our Lord's house!

Sponsored by: Fellowship FWB Church Women's Auxiliary



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN CHAPEL FWB CHURCH

Great VBS

June 9-14 was a great time for everyone involved in Vacation Bible School at Christian Chapel FWB Church. We had an increase in attendance from last year. There were lots of kids with lots of energy, keeping them on track was quite a task, but worth all the effort.

Children are not just the church of tomorrow, but the church of today. They play an important roll in all that is done. What will our churches be in the years to come if we fail in our duty toward our children today?

As a pastor, I appreciate the efforts of our church to enstall in our youth the importance of church and serving our Saviour.

Following the commencement we served hot dogs, chips and drinks to our guests and the parents went to the childrens rooms to see the different crafts they made during the week.

Listed below are the people who helped make our VBS such a success:

Director Mike Tyndall
Music Flora Howard
Preschool Donna Kennedy and Linda Faye Howard
Kindergarten Catherine Tyndall and Joyce Ann Smith
Primary Paige Marshburn and Diane Stroud
Middler April Howard and Gay Howard
5th and 6th Grade Martha Martin and Martha Howard
Jr. High and High School Bonnie Ard and Todd Ard
Adult Class

Sunday — Jerry Stroud, Monday — Betty Anderson

Tuesday — Lorraine Smith, Wednesday — Pat Howard

Thursday — Lynwood Stroud

Refreshments Ola Jean Stroud and Ann Turner

Men's Day

On June 3, the men at Christian Chapel had Men's Day. The men were in charge of Sunday school as well as the worship service. The men were given small gifts of appreciation for what they mean to our church. Listed below are the men who had part in Men's Day.

Sunday School Superintendent —

Buddy Smith

Teen Class — Earl Bielby

Adult I — Freddie Howard

Adult II — Linwood Stroud

Adult III — Graham Stroud

Worship Service — Edgar Casteen

Choir Leader — Graham Stroud

Special Music —

Earl Bielby and Todd Ard

Ushers —

Freddie Howard, Skeet Smith,
and Johnathan Stroud

Surprise Birthday Party

On July 3, the people of Christian Chapel gave the pastor's wife, Wallie, a surprise birthday party. They gave her a beautiful cake and it was delicious too, along with all kinds of goodies. Everyone enjoyed the birthday party.





ON THE VIRTUE AND VALUE OF WORK

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

“...if any would not work, neither should he eat,”
(2 Thessalonians 3:10)

One of the strongest desires of parents is to help assure the well-being and financial security of their children. The question is how to achieve this goal. I do not presume to have all the answers, but I have some thoughts and experiences that I am willing to risk sharing.

Let me say upfront that I believe one of the greatest contributions we can make to our children is provide an opportunity for them to learn the value of money by working for it. It has been my observation that the people who best know the value of money are those who earn it.

One of the most inexcusable problems of our time is vandalism — the willful and malicious destruction of property. Vandals are people who do not respect the value of property because they have never worked for it.

Another major problem is the lack of discipline in our schools. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recently reported that one-third of our teachers leave teaching by the end of the fifth year. One teacher reported that she lasted only five months: “I was cussed out by 14-year-olds in ways that would get my colleagues fired. I had my life threatened. I had a student throw his desk across the room.” This kind of behaviour is simply not seen in children who are taught at home the virtue and value of work.

During more than forty years as president of Mount Olive College, I do not recall a serious disciplinary problem with any student who was personally responsible for the cost of his or her education. Major disciplinary problems were invariably with those whose parents were financing their education or those who were fully funded through financial aid.

At the end of World War II, half of the wealth of the world was in the hands of Americans; today, half a century later, we are the largest debtor nation on earth, a debt that is approaching \$20,000 for every man, woman and child in the United States. Japan, which lay devastated and defeated at the end of the war, now has a trade surplus with this country that runs into billions of dol-

lars annually.

What has happened? The international economy is complex, but in simple language the Japanese know the value of work, and they produce more than they consume. In this country, respect for the work ethic has eroded and we indulge ourselves in consuming more than we produce. This generation is not only consuming more than it is producing — it is spendthrift with the wealth inherited from the previous generation and is also creating an enormous debt for future generations.

Education and Work

In his list of the seven deadly sins of the human race, Mahatma Gandhi put first: “Wealth without work.” If we want our children — and grandchildren — to enjoy financial security, I believe we must help them learn the virtue and value of work, otherwise, all they have and all we many leave them will not be enough.

Many of the people with wealth today lived through the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II. These people earned their money through work and they sought to save their resources, and consequently they have something to pass on to posterity. In working with them in their estate planning, I am impressed with their desire to perpetuate those values which guided their lives. They do not want the resources which they accumulated by hard work and careful management to be squandered.

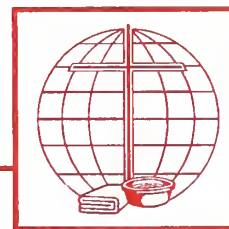
Deep in the human heart is a desire to contribute to the welfare of humanity, but in the final analysis the only people we can really help are those who are willing to help themselves. It is for this reason that I recommend to people who establish scholarships that they include provisions that the recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to attaining an education, of begin hardworking, self-reliant, self-motivated, diligent and having academic promise.

It is my belief that if a student really wants an education, he/she is willing to work for it. These are the kinds of students, people who have worked for their money want to help.

Notes & Quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



Administrative Costs

Almost everyone--lay people, ministers, ministry directors--is concerned about the cost of administering a program, especially one which is associated with the church. According to the Scriptures, it is required that we all be good stewards; thus it is imperative that we not squander any of the funds with which we have been entrusted. So, what is an appropriate amount of money which should be allocated for administrative cost? How much should it cost to run a program, a ministry?

Before we answer that question, we must first deal with a misconception. Many people want to be sure that all of their money goes to the "real" ministry of the field or to the clients served by the program. Administrative work and cost are often considered unnecessary and those who administer the work are seen as bureaucrats robbing the program of money that could be used to do ministry.

Administrative work is not only necessary but is listed among the spiritual gifts. Ted Engstrom, in his book *Your Gift of Administration*, identified "he that ruleth" (Romans 12:8) as the personal gift which designates administrative ability. According to Engstrom, "it derives from the Greek word *priostemi* and is variously translated 'rules,' 'takes the lead,' 'to be over,' 'to superintend,' 'preside over'" (Engstrom, p. 24).

In 1 Corinthians 12:5, Paul provides a list of offices or functions within the church. He begins by stating "there are differences of administrations." Engstrom explains, "In this passage of Scripture, the word 'administration' is translated from the Greek word *diakonia*, which is also defined as ministries, functions, or offices" (Engstrom, p.45).

Administration is ministry! The pastor, according to the *Articles of Faith*, is the chief administrative officer of the local church. Providing leadership for Christian ministry is

part of doing ministry. Part of the modern problem in the local church is that the pastor *and* people have forgotten the administrative role of the pastor. The pastor is expected to do ministry for the church instead of leading and equipping the members to do that work.

When we return to the question of what administration should cost, we must understand that it will vary from program to program. A better view might be found by looking at what "administration" involves. If it only involves fund raising, then the cost should be low. If administration involves providing leadership and requires a major investment of time and work, the cost will be considerably higher. The local church provides a good example. The hiring of an administrator (the pastor) will probably make up a major portion of the church budget. (As the church learns to do ministry and to assist in the work of others, the percentage will probably lower.)

A second factor relates to the size of the ministry. Usually, the smaller the ministry, the larger the percentage of administrative cost. There will be some basic cost regardless of the size and those factors usually do not increase proportionately with other things that are directly related to the numbers served.

Instead of looking for a magical formula to measure effective administrative cost, we should consider the work that is being done. The Bible declares that the workman is worthy of his hire (Matthew 10:10; 1 Timothy 6:18). Certainly, the administrator deserves a fair and equitable compensation for his work.

Another major cost related to administration is the cost of public relations. For ministry, that usually involves providing information. We all desire low costs, but want to be informed. Communication is one of the keys to accountability. The cost of communication is continually rising. Printing costs and postage drive up

this expense dramatically, often several times a year.

I am not suggesting that we not be concerned with administrative costs. I am suggesting that we keep this concern in perspective! If you have concerns about a particular ministry, I would encourage you to contact the director of that ministry. He would be glad to hear your questions, answer your queries, and share information about the program. If I can provide assistance, answers, and/or any information about denominational matters, please feel free to contact me (Headquarters address: Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; phone: 919-746-4963).

Special Thanks

Each year, the Convention Executive Committee requests that churches support this office at the rate of \$5 per active member (figured from information supplied by churches). For the year ending June 30, 1996, 74% of our churches contributed to the Convention; 11% met or exceeded their challenge.

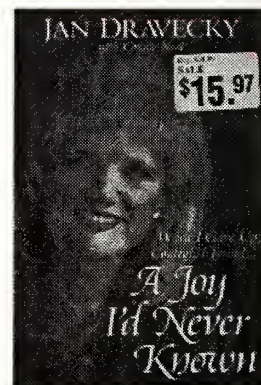
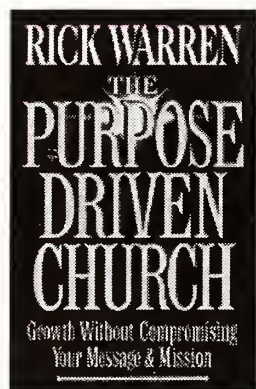
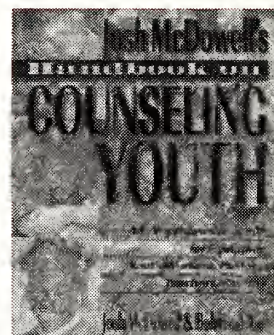
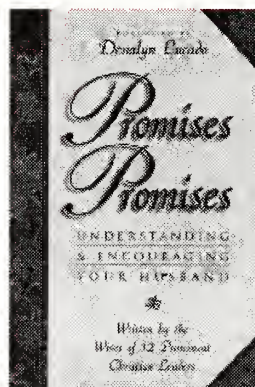
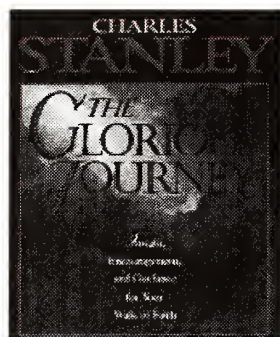
The churches meeting/exceeding their challenge include: Ayden, Bethany, Bethel (CF), Beulaville, Community (C), Daniels Chapel, Grimsley, Hugo, Indian Springs, King's Cross Roads, La Grange, Lee's Chapel, Little Creek, Macedonia (PD), Marlboro, Marsh Swamp, Memorial (E), Northeast, Oak Grove (E), Palmer Memorial, Roanoke Valley, Robert's Grove, Rocky Mount, Rose of Sharon, Saratoga, St. Paul (CF), Thomasboro, and White Oak. A special thank you is extended to these churches.

We would encourage all of our churches to meet the goal set for this year. We would also appreciate your church receiving a special offering for the Convention on August 11, the Day of Stewardship. Without your support, this office--and the work of the Convention--cannot continue. (More about funds next month!)

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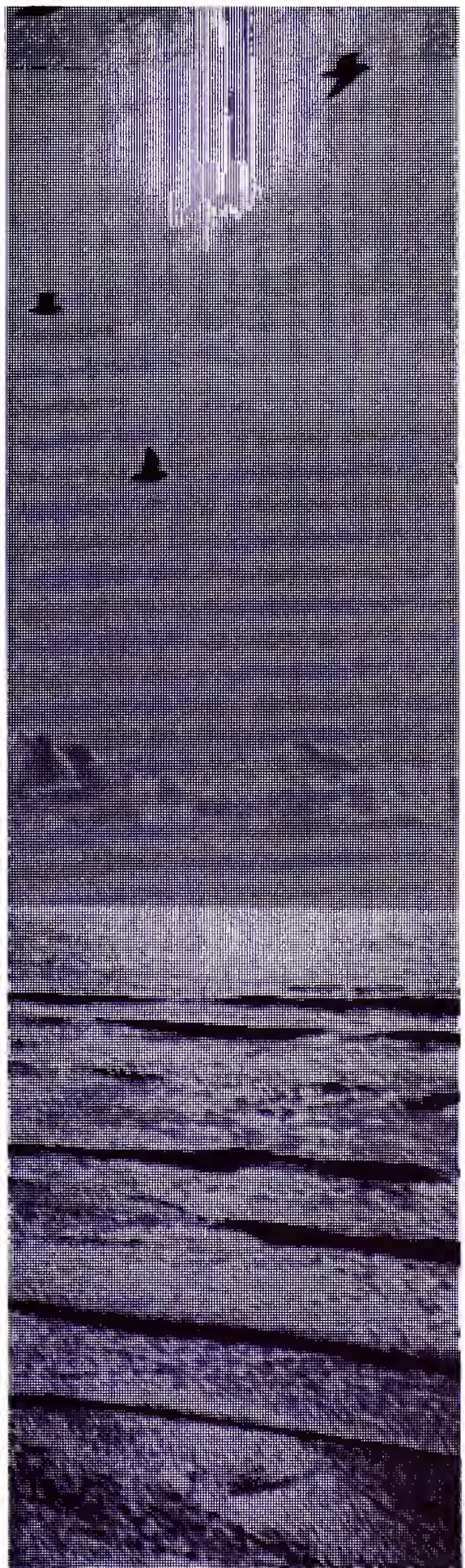
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

SEPTEMBER



1996



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NEXT MONTH

*October Is
Minister's Program
Month*

*September Is
Home Missions
and Evangelism Month*

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and co-operation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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Meet Us At The
1996
Mission Rally

Wednesday, September 11, 1996
7:30 pm

Home Missions and Evangelism
will Celebrate



Twenty-four years of
Touching Lives For
A Lifetime



Help us expand His Kingdom by participating in this ministry.
September is Home Missions and Evangelism Month — So Plan

- A. To have a season of prayer*
- B. Bring or Send a Love Offering to the 1996 Mission Rally*
- C. To attend this year's Mission Rally*
(Bring your entire church)

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a new program
to help the
struggling church



The Harvest Covenant program was created to offer the small and / or struggling congregation some help in finding ways to become the Church Christ would have it become, to enable it to once again "Magnify the Name of the Lord."

With the Harvest Covenant program your church can move from a declining situation to a growing functioning congregation as your people:

- **DISCOVER** the true mission of the Church
- **DEVELOP** outreach ministries
- **REVERSE** the declining situation
- **DRAW** closer to each other and to the Lord
- **GAIN** lifelong experiences
- **UNDERSTAND** why we serve
- **LEARN** about discipleship

REMEMBER—

No church has to stay in a declining state, waiting to disappear. With faith, commitment and hard work any church can become the Church Christ called it to be.

Let Us Help!

Contact:

Home Missions and Evangelism
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Telephone: (919) 746-4963



Scouting Banquet

September 9, 1996

6:30 p.m.

**Murphy Center
Mount Olive College**

Original Free Will Baptist Church Leaders are Invited:

Pastors,

Scout Leaders (wear your uniform),

Youth Leaders (men and women),

and all boys ages 7 through 17.

You must make Reservations

by September 5, 1996

Call (919) 746-4963

Home Missions and Evangelism

Commission On Scouting

give your name and number attending

Special Guest Speaker

Joe Yoke

Associate Director of Relations
National Boy Scouting of America



Special Music by:

Judy Jones & Jay Tripp

and

Second Edition

of

New Bern

Highlights

from

National Jamboree

and

New Scouting Video

Banquet Theme: Character Counts

SCOUTING



BSA Sets Standard for Child Abuse Prevention

In a country where more than three million cases of child abuse are reported each year, including about five hundred thousand reports of sexual abuse, the BSA's Youth protection training may be an important benefit for both parents and children.

Youth Protection Training reflects the BSA's deep commitment to prevent child abuse. Educating and training adult leaders, parents, and youth about child abuse prevention are major elements in the BSA's five-point strategy for Youth Protection. The five points are to:

- Educate Scouting volunteers, parents, and youth to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Help chartered organizations strengthen their leadership selection procedures to prevent offenders from entering BSA leadership ranks.
- Establish policies in the program that create barriers to child abuse.
- Encourage Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Implement swift removal and reporting of alleged offenders.

These strategies target the preconditions that can lead to abuse, and help to create a hostile environment for potential child molesters and pedophiles.

The BSA has produced outstanding education and training materials for youth members, adult leaders, and parents. These materials have been developed with the advice and guidance of experts in the fields of child development, pediatric medicine, education, child abuse prevention, and law enforcement.

Through awareness training, adult leaders learn to recognize the signs of possible abuse. They also learn how to handle allegations of abuse.

The BSA recently updated the adult training kit. The core of the kit is an hour-long video. The video is moderated by Cordelia Anderson, a nationally recognized educator and expert on child abuse prevention, and features a panel of professionals in medicine, law enforcement, social work and Scouting. Panel members answer questions posed by an audience of adult volunteers and parents. The kit also includes a guide for conducting adult leader and parent training sessions, and reproducible handout materials. The BSA has developed a simple educational concept called the "three Rs" of Youth Protection:

- Recognize tactics and situations used by molesters that could lead to molestation. Remember that a child molester could be anyone.
- Resist attempts by child molesters. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation, since few resort to force.
- Report individuals who attempt molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. Telling someone helps protect other young people from harm.

The BSA has produced two age-appropriate videotapes that help young boys recognize dangerous situations and avoid becoming victims. Each video has a guide available for use by volunteer leaders when viewing the videos with youth members. The guide includes a sample letter to parents about the videotape, a meeting agenda, and a discussion guide for use after each viewing.

It Happened to Me is designed for Cub Scouts ages 6 to 10 to watch with their parents. The videotape presents five scenarios that show high-risk situations that might be encountered. The award-winning video establishes safety rules and helps eliminate the fear, shame, and confusion that sometimes accompanies abuse.

A Time to Tell is for Boy Scouts ages 11 to 14. The videotape depicts the risks of sexual abuse through a series of dramatizations. It was released in Spring 1989 and has been widely used in Scouting as well as other youth organizations. The video has won several awards and is available for television broadcast.

Effective communication between parents and children is essential in the detection of child abuse. If a child does not feel comfortable talking about sexual abuse with a parent or trusted adult, the abuse might go undetected and may continue. Experts say that secrecy is a child molester's best weapon. The booklet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, bound in the front of several BSA publications, including the *Boy Scout Handbook*, encourages discussion between Scouts and their parents. The guide includes important information about strategies to help prevent abuse, and useful advice for dealing with the victims of abuse. The guide also provides specific child abuse prevention exercises and activities that parents can do with their child.

The BSA strives to ensure that Scouting is the safest activity available to youth, and has adopted specific policies that create barriers to abuse. These policies serve to protect youth members from abuse and to protect adult leaders from false accusations. The policies include:

- **Two-deep leadership.** Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings.

- **No one-on-one contact.** One-on-one contact between adults and Scouts is not permitted, except for authorized ride-along programs. Personal conferences must be conducted in view of other adults and youths.
- **Respect of privacy.** Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes or taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must also protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- **Separate accommodations.** When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian.
- **Proper preparation for high-adventure activities.** Activities with elements of risk should never be undertaken without proper preparation, equipment, clothing, supervision, and safety measures.
- **No secret organizations.** The BSA does not recognize any secret organization as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- **Appropriate attire.** Proper clothing for activities is required. Skinny-dipping is not appropriate as a Scouting activity.
- **Constructive discipline.** Discipline in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- **No hazing.** Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.
- **Junior leader training and supervision.** Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and see that BSA policies are followed.

The BSA's Youth Protection strategies also address leader selection. The Chartered organizations, which have the responsibility for recruiting and selecting adult leaders, are expected to do background checks and to recognize applicants with past problems.

The Youth protection program has earned praise from top child abuse experts from across the country. The program is updated frequently with the help of experts.

Youth protection information is available to social service agencies and other youth-serving organizations. In 1993 the BSA and fourteen other organizations held the first national symposium on child abuse prevention for organizations that serve youth.

For more information, contact:

**Commission On Scouting
for
Original Free Will Baptists
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Telephone: (919) 746-4963**

Vision 2000

EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM

10

REASONS

WHY WE SHOULD PRAY FOR THE MINSITRY OF HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

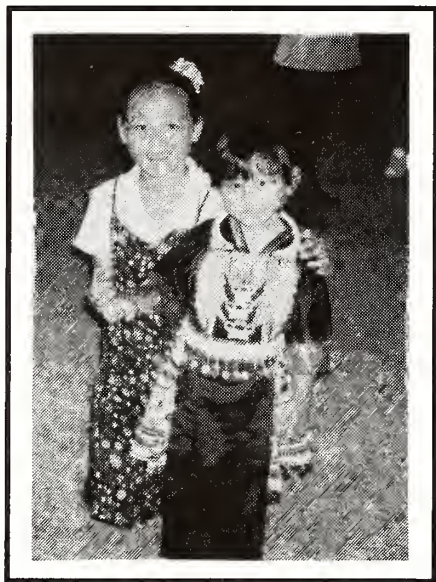
1. Reaching the Unsaved
2. Planting Churches
3. Evangelism – Mobile Ministry
4. Opportunity for Harvest – Discipleship Training
5. Church Growth/Life-Line Ministry
6. Denominational Potential and Growth
7. Special Ministries – Ethnic, Migrant & Deaf
8. Touching Lives Corps – People Helping People
9. Scouting – Reaching the Family
10. Following the Great Commission

TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME

WE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

LOOK AT US

Touching Lives Corps Team — California and Missouri



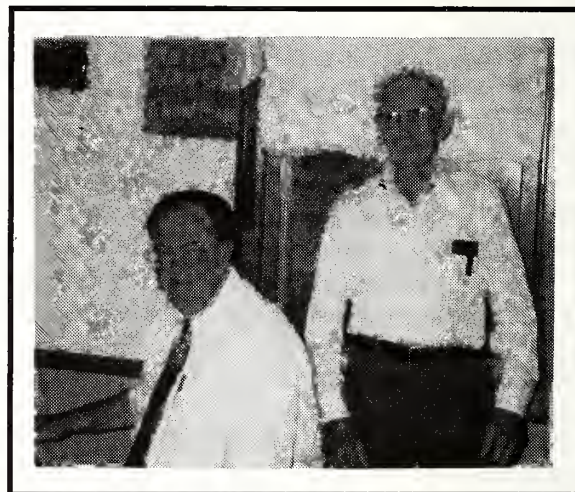
H'mong children in traditional dress



H'mong ladies in traditional dress singing at the Harvest 2000 crusade



Brother Al Markuson prays with H'mong at the altar



Brother Buddy Sasser and Brother Gray of Coldsprings FWB Church, Mountain View, Missouri, sing for Morning Worship



The Reverend and Mrs. Billie Hicks; Brother Hicks is the pastor of the Coldsprings FWB Church, Mountain View, Missouri

"CONTINUOUS DISCIPLING THE PASTORS AND CHURCH MEMBERS"

by Rev. Zacarias Perocillo

One irrevocable fact in the history of the early Christian church, was what Jesus did to His twelve disciples. He taught them day and night how to live a Godly life. He taught them by living with them while doing works of God day by day for three solid years. When Jesus left His disciples, He sent to them the Holy Spirit.

Following Jesus' example, in every church gathering where I'm present on whatever occasion, I always see to it that it is a discipling session. When I supervise a Pastor and his family, or when a Pastor visits me in my home, a helping process for the supervisee will not only take place but also a discipling session often will take place over a cup of coffee or a simple meal of rice and fish. This I do not only with the Pastors and their families but when the members that visit with me in my home. It's not only I doing this with the members but the Pastors primarily have to continually disciple their own church members.

The act of discipling or teaching is also a learning process even on the part of the teacher. For the best way to learn is to teach. Christian Education, after all, my professor said, is from the "womb to this tomb." But my major aim in devoting so much time to this program is to help the Free Will Baptists Philippines to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth is necessary if our church is to grow in Christian maturity and in membership, thereby spreading throughout the Philippine

Islands. God willing, we will preach throughout the Asian countries long after our founding members have all gone to their Creator.

Jesus said, "you can do more than this" — meaning we can disciple more than twelve people. His disciples have spread the gospel throughout the world as He commanded them to do. We are under the same command; with the help of the Holy Spirit, I believe we can do more by making every church member a missionary.

We are introducing changes, if not actually overhauling our whole way of training our pastors and members, in introducing Jesus' way of discipling. We are teaching not only by Word, but by example—actually living with those we wish to disciple, having fellowship day-by-day especially in times of adversity. The present time is opportune for evangelism because of the famine and problems with the Muslims.

Here are the pictures of different church gatherings. These are all visible evidence of what I mean we are doing here in the Philippines, in Visayas, and Mindanao especially. Pastor fellowships with pastor in the work, and Pastor fellowships with members. These will develop our closeness such that even in time of troubles together we can laugh and hold each others' hands. With the Holy Spirit in our midst, who can be against us?



Pastors fellowshiping with other pastors and their families after the discipling session.



Fellowship after Bible study, discipling session.

SHORT-TERM TEAMS MEXICO SUMMER 1996

This was a summer of exciting ministry for the two teams that worked in Mexico. The days of each team were filled with activity. The construction of a parsonage at the Prince of Peace FWB Church in Piedras Negras was the major work project. The parsonage was almost completed when the second team left Mexico on July 23. A third team composed of four men, went back to complete the parsonage in August. The keys were turned over to the pastor and his family.

Other members of the team were engaged in church ministry, through Vacation Bible Schools, puppets, singing, crafts, women and youth meetings. They nourished the souls of many people through these activities.

Dr. Don Ribeiro and his wife, Karen, provided medical attention to a large number of people in June.

Listed below are the names of those on the June and July teams:

June 15-25 team members; Richard Glosson (Stoney Creek), Helen T. Beaman (Hull Road), Don Ribeiro (Winterville), Karen Ribeiro (Winterville), Gary Lee (Faith-CF), Jonathan Kennedy (Sandy Plain), Cherry Williamson (Rocky Mount), Jarvis J. Mills (Greenville), Archie Brock (Williamston), J.D. Wade (Elm Grove), Lloyd Hargis (Powhatan), Sandy Hargis (Powhatan), Donnie Paramore (Greenville), Harold Jones (Winterville), Sandra Jones (Winterville), Edmundo Gonzalez (Hopewell), Phil Farmer (Wilson), Gus Farmer (Wilson), Kelly King (Wilson), Emily Pickett (Winterville), Denise Osborne (Elm Grove), James Anthony Calabro, Dawn Forrest (Winterville), Nikki Moye (Wilson), Stacey Radford (Wilson), Ginny Conner (Holly Springs-E), Misty R. Jones (Winterville), Jason See, Wesley Williams (Milbournie), and Raymond Conner (Holly Springs-E).

July 13-23 team members; Julie Cox (Elm Grove), Fred Baker (Robert's Grove), Linda Baker (Robert's Grove), Jimmy Mercer (Sandy Plain), Meresa Mercer (Sandy Plain), Wes Boyd (Reedy Branch), Marcey Boyd (Reedy Branch), Matthew Pilgreen (Reedy Branch), Amy Fredette (Reedy Branch), Katherine Highsmith (Reedy Branch), Eric Brann (Reedy Branch), Brooks Murphy (Reedy Branch), Kendall Jennings (Reedy Branch), Lea Ware (Reedy Branch), Danielle Jennings (Reedy Branch), Lorraine DeCuzzi (Reedy Branch), Becky Huerta (Cabin), Amanda Huerta (Cabin), Harold Jones (Winterville), Sandra Jones (Winterville), Edmundo Gonzalez (Hopewell), and Lucy Timmons (Laredo, Texas).

These pictures tell the story of the Short-Term Team 1996.

June Team Activities



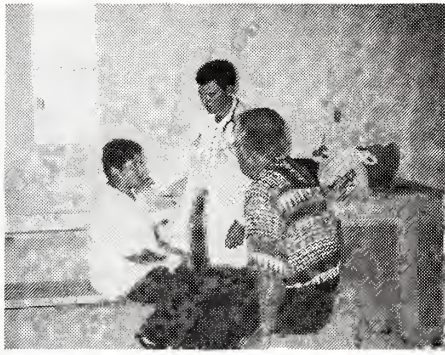
Construction on the parsonage.



Sandra Hargis cutting hair.



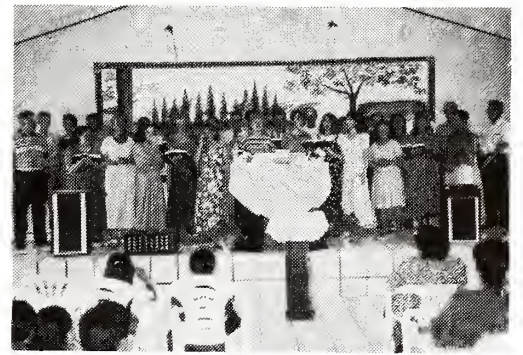
Karen Ribeiro taking blood pressure.



Dr. Don Ribeiro consulting a patient, Rev. Edmundo Gonzalez interpreter.

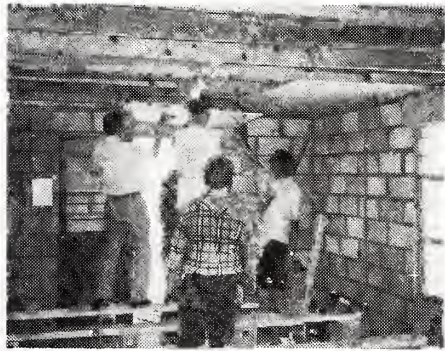


Helen Beaman teaching the women.



The team members sharing a song at the Jordan Church.

July Team Activities



Construction on the parsonage.



The team members with the pastor and his family



Vaction Bible School at Acuña.



Activities with the women at Acuña.



Worship Service outside at Prince of Peace Church.



Ready for lunch and a time to rest.



Mrs. Lucy Timmons brings greetings.

What about you? Would you like to join a Short-Term Team in the future? The age requirement for most teams is thirteen years and up. Each team member must be a Christian, committed to serving the Lord in a cross-cultural experience. There will be a team in June and one in July 1997. There will be a maximum of twenty per team. Call our office for more details, phone 919-746-4963. Ask for Harold or Sandra Jones.

Don't Miss The Annual Convention Missions Rally

SEPTEMBER 11, 1996 • 7:30 PM • COLLEGE HALL, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN CHARGE

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES



SPEAKER,
REV. ANTONIO ESCOBAR, FIELD DIRECTOR, MEXICO



SPECIAL MUSIC & TESTIMONIES:
SHORT-TERM TEAM MEMBERS



SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY MEXICAN PUPPETS

WHY NOT CALL OFF PRAYER MEETING AND COME TO THE RALLY? This will be an exciting evening that you will long remember.

SPECIAL OFFERING: Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year.

REMEMBER: Your special gift to Foreign Missions at the Missions Rally must be designated. If for some reason you cannot attend the Rally, you can mail your gift and receive credit for the Rally offering.



CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS

by Gary Lee, Director of Church and Public Relations

On August 3, 1996, the Cape Fear Youth Fellowship visited the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. This year the group chose an Olympic theme because of the Olympic games were being held in Atlanta. The day began with "opening ceremonies" outside Heritage Hall. Approximately one hundred and eighty children and adults were in attendance. Everyone learned a brief history of the games and devotion was by Scott Satterfield, President of the district. Several churches from the district presented the children's home with financial contributions totaling nearly \$2500.00. Each of the churches brought needed items to the Children's Home including paper goods, school supplies, and household items. Enjoli, from the Children's Home, sang the national anthem while everyone faced the flag in the center of campus. Many of the guests toured the cottages to learn more about our child care ministry. Everyone enjoyed a hot-dog and hamburger lunch in Heritage Hall. After lunch, Angela Honeycutt gave announcements for the day and a schedule of events. Then she pronounced, "Let the games begin!" The afternoon activities included: dunking booth, tug-of-war, sack races, wheelbarrow races, volleyball, basketball, water balloon toss, straw toss, Frisbee throw, and singing. The smaller children played money in the hay and cooled off with slip-and-slide. The dunking booth drew the most attention. Sometimes the line to be dunked was longer than the tossing line. The water balloons were also a big hit. There were hundreds of balloons and almost every person got wet.

Toward the end of the afternoon watermelon was served in the center of campus. The "closing ceremonies" concluded the day as the crowd learned a valuable lesson about sportsmanship and the significance of the torch. Christians should carry a torch every day in our hearts and let the world see our light. Everyone received a medal of participation for the day's events. The Children's Home would like to thank the Cape Fear Youth Fellowship for this day and all they did to make it such a success!! We look forward to seeing you again next year. Angela Honeycutt is the Director of the Cape Fear Youth District. Karen Honeycutt is the Assistant.



The crowd gathers for "Opening Ceremonies"



Everyone takes a break from heat to enjoy lunch.



Phyllis McLamb of Shady Grove gets wet by her youth.



Forget Gold! These kids go for the silver in "Money in the Hay"



Angela Honeycutt describes the days events as the crowd looks on.



Tug-of-War, the girls win



You can see who wants to get dunked!



Volleyball

Watching & Waiting...

Expectation. It is a word burdened with meaning, implication, and emotion. The word implicitly speaks about our attitude toward the future. Our expectations are a window into our optimism, cynicism, hopes and dreams, disappointments and fears. What are our expectations?

God has expectations. Surely God has hopes for our future, the future of the world, our children, our neighbors, our churches. Surely God has standards He wants us to meet. Surely God is with us from time to time.

"Can you not pray with me for one hour?"

"It is better to obey than to sacrifice."

"Why did you doubt?"

These are but a few of the hundreds of statements in the Bible where God is speaking to people who failed to meet His expectations. Jesus is speaking to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane; Samuel is chastising Saul after he did not destroy war spoils as commanded. Jesus is questioning Peter after he started sinking in the water. In each situation, God gives words challenging these people in their faith. Certainly these words apply to us today.

As the Denomination approaches the Convention event, what are our expectations? More importantly, what are God's expectations? Is it possible God wants us to pray for the Convention? Is it possible God

want us to do His will at the Convention? Is it possible that He wants us to believe in His presence and power at the Convention?

**"PERHAPS IT IS
TIME THAT WE
ENTER INTO A
PREPARATION FOR
THE
CONVENTION"**

Perhaps it is time that we enter into the preparation for the Convention. It is time that we seek *God's* expectations for His Churches (and they are *His* Churches). It is time that we seek God's Will for His ministries. It is time that we seek God's Will for His people. There is no room for selfish ambition or prideful agenda. It is time for us to open our hearts to the direction of the Holy Spirit. As the Convention calls for *40 days of prayer and preparation*, let us answer the call with diligence and hope. Let us rest in the hope that God will meet us in Mount Olive and that we would witness His work in us and in our Denomination. Let us lay ourselves barren and wasted before God that He may perform His miracle of revival and power in us. Let us expect a God-authored Convention this year and in the years to come.

This is not to say that we have not prepared in the past, or that God has not been present in the Conventions of the past. Certainly God has multiplied blessings in this Denomination. Original Free Will Baptists are small when compared with some denominations. But we have been made large through the

power of God. We are strong through His grace. Take care this year to look with prayerful gratitude at the many things accomplished by our churches, our ministries, our Convention. Let the Convention be a time to take inventory of our dreams and God's faithfulness to bring them to fruition. Let us labor for God-ordained expectations for this year!

Renovation Update: Now the Little Things

As the summer conference close we still need "little" things to give the new rooms a finished touch. We still need sheets, pillowcases, lamps, racks for both the rooms and the bathrooms. In order to keep with the patterns, colors, and designs we already have, we are asking for monetary donations.



**COMING UP NEXT
M O N T H :
CRAGMONT'S
S U M M E R
C O N F E R E N C E
R E P O R T !**

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCES



The theme for the June 3-8 Women's Auxiliary Conference was "The Fruits of the Spirit." The Bible study lessons were by Mary Boyd, Ruth Warrick, Jackie Flowers, Evelyn Williams, Donna Holland, Francis Phillips, and Alma Dale. Morning devotions were by Joyce Edmundson. Music director was Alma Dale with JoAnn Parrish as pianist. Camp nurse was Frances Phillips, with Teresa Ball as registrar, and Donna Holland as director. The Rev. Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions, brought the message on Friday night. Thirty-four campers attended the week; all had a great time in fellowship and worship of the LORD.



The theme for the July 29-August 3 Women's Auxiliary Conference was "The Parables." The Bible study lessons were by Mamie Dail. Morning devotions were by May Pittman, Ramona Norman, Lorraine Hines, and Jean Deal. Music director was Alma Dale Cox with JoAnn Parrish as pianist, and Gladys Corbett as organist. Camp nurse was Frances Phillips, with Teresa Ball as registrar, and Donna Holland as director. The Rev. Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions, brought the message on Friday night. Ninety-nine campers attended the week.



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

THE GOD WHO COMES

BY FRANK R. HARRISON, CAMPUS MINISTER, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

"But the spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him" (Judges 6:34).

America is under siege! Read a daily newspaper, or watch a daily newscast, and quickly one sees the evidence that America is being eroded at its very foundations. The evidence is all too clear. Crime, divorce, drug addiction, rape, violence, alcoholism, teen pregnancy, pornography, fornication, and adultery are a part of our daily life, and are beamed across the land to every household.

The national debt is now in the trillions and is climbing at an alarming rate, threatening to bankrupt this nation in the next few years. Selfishness has become a way of life as millions of Americans grow more cynical, less compassionate, and attitudes toward the poor and under privileged become hardened.

Perhaps we need to remember the lessons from ancient Rome whose own moral decay resulted in her self-destruction as the great empire crumbled from within as the foundations gave way under the constant assault of idolatry, sexual immorality, selfishness and various excesses of the mind and spirit. Yet, our national motto is "In God We Trust."

Somehow, over the years America has gone astray. America has lost her soul. Our abundance has led to greed, and our freedom has become a license to turn away

from God, and seemingly to embrace the philosophy described in Judges 21:25: "In those days...every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

And where is the Church and its prophets whose oracles and messages are "thus saith the Lord?" All too often she is polluted with the desires and materialism of the world, dozing comfortably in the complacent seat, thinking she has everything and is in need of nothing. This is the picture of the churches of Ephesus and Laodicea portrayed in Revelation 2:1-7 and 3:14-21. To those churches the Lord speaks some burning and pointed words: "Thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:4-5). To the church of Laodicea who had acquired wealth, and needed nothing materially, the Lord says "... thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17). Is this a picture of the Church today?

Where is our salvation? Where is our hope? Where is the "balm of Gilead" to bind up our wounds and heal our sickness? Is it not to be found in God? Is it not in God who comes to His people with forgiveness, redemption, and healing in His wings when they humble themselves, confess their sins, and seek His face? He is God who came

in Spirit upon Gideon in mighty power that he might deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Midianites, and bring about a religious reformation in Israel, turning her back to God.

Throughout the Old and New Testament, examples can be cited of the God who comes in the hour of great need to deliver His people and draw them to Himself. The Spirit of the Lord came in power on Gideon (Judges 6:34), Samson (Judges 14:6; 15:14), Saul (1 Samuel 10:10), and David (1 Samuel 16:13). God of the Old Testament, God whom the people of Israel believed was with them all the time, is the God who comes. In the New Testament His greatest coming is in Jesus Christ. After His Resurrection, He came as the Holy Spirit to abide with His people and to be the presence of Christ in their daily lives as they were to carry His message and mission to all the world.

Faced with the great task and commission of Jesus, there is a great need for revival and renewal in the church today that her great mission may be accomplished. It is only in the power of the Spirit that the church can be the successful witness, and stem the tides of secularism that threaten her very life.

The hope of the church for victory must ultimately rest upon the God who comes and who is faithful. Our security must be in the unchangeable God who loves to do a new thing in coming anew to His people. He invites us to come to

The God Who ComesCont....

Him and lay ourselves before Him. He is anxious and willing to bless His people and forgive their sin. Let us hear the gracious words of the prophet Joel: "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil (Joel 2:12-13).

May the God who comes, whose name is Immanuel, visit us anew, revive, and refresh us with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Recommended reading:

The Coming Revival by Bill Bright
(New Life Publications, 1995)

The Hope at Hand by David Bryant
(Baker Books, 1995)

A Family Tradition at Mount Olive College



Family Traditions...that's what this visit is about! Ms. Dianne Riley, Mount Olive's Director of Admissions, welcomes Jon Clark, son of Randy and Jan Clark, and nephew of the Rev. Donald Coats, pastor of Pine Level FWB Church. Jan and Donald are sister and brother. Their parents are Mrs. Lucille Coats and the late Rev. Albert Coats of Smithfield.

Jon and his parents live in Oregon and are visiting family here. Because Jon is a high school senior, he and his parents are in the process of selecting a college. Family connections dictated a visit to the Mount Olive campus since his uncle is a MOC graduate and his mother attended youth camps here.

MINISTER'S PROGRAM NOTE:

WIDOWS FUND NOTICE

The Minister's Program has received word of the death of the Reverend C. Felton Godwin of Newton Grove, North Carolina.

When a participating minister dies then a new enrollment is begun. This will be a single and the total amount due on this enrollment will be \$10.00. Full participation requires one year of uninterrupted enrollments by the participant prior to a claim.

Every married minister can and should be a part of this fund. It is not only a financial blessing to the recipient, but also the fund is a tangible way that you can help in a time of great need.

The last enrollment was a single enrollment for the Reverend John Woodrow Byrd.

For all of our mailings we use the mailing list provided to by the Convention. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy of this list but if your address has changed in any way please notify them in Ayden at Post Office Box 39.



News From...

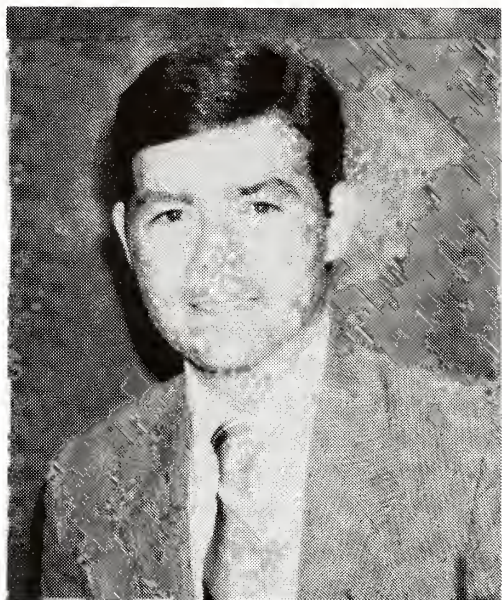
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

BRIDGE BUILDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Saturday, September 28, 1996 at 6 PM

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

Mount Olive College



DR. DONALD ALAN RIBEIRO
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Donald Alan Ribeiro will be the featured speaker at the 1996 annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. The event is planned to express appreciation to the 1995 Bridge Builders and to launch the 1996 dinners.

Dr. Ribeiro serves Pitt County and the surrounding area as a family physician with the Pitt County physicians practice in Ayden. In addition to his busy schedule as a practicing family physician he also is an ordained Free Will Baptist minister presently serving as interim pastor at Marlboro FWB Church near Farmville. He serves on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees and he and his family are active members of the Winterville FWB Church. Having a strong commitment to excel and overcome obstacles, Dr. Ribeiro will be an inspiration to all who hear him.

While this event honors the 1,517 Bridge Builders from our 1995 church dinners, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders, those who make an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more at their county gift support dinners, have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

The 17 annual Free Will Baptist gift support dinners are designed to provide support for the general education fund. In addition to financial support, these dinners provide a strong means of communication between the Free Will Baptist Church and the College.

Detach and Return
REPLY FORM

_____ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 28.

There will be _____ in my party.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Please mail to:
Jean Ackiss, Director of Church Support
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
Phone: 919-658-2502

(All Friends of Mount Olive College Are Invited)

*Eighty-fourth Annual Session
of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

College Hall
Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

7:30	Evangelism Rally	Rodgers Chapel
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Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Music Leaders: Mrs. Mary Dudley,
Mrs. Kathy Sherrod

MORNING SESSION

8:30 Registration of Ministers and Delegates
9:00 Convention Called to Order, the Rev. Bruce
Dudley

Congregational Singing
Special Music
Scripture and Prayer, the Rev. Paul Grubbs
Welcome

9:15 President's Remarks, the Rev. Ray Wells
Appointment of Committees
Partial Report of Credentials Committee
Executive Committee Report,
the Rev. Bruce Dudley
Treasurer's Report, the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood
Executive Administrator's Report,
the Rev. W. Scott Sowers
Nominating Committee Report
Miscellaneous Business
Floor Open for Nominations

10:10	Worship Service
11:00	Introductory Message, the Rev. Lowell Burrus
11:00	Children's Home Report, Dr. Bobby Taylor
11:15	Church Finance Association Report, the Rev. Don Fader
11:30	Cragmont Assembly Report, the Rev. John Williams
11:45	Foreign Missions Report, the Rev. Harold Jones
12:00	Recess for Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 Registration (1:30–2:00)
 Congregational Singing
 Scripture and Prayer, the Rev. Todd Sutton
 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates and Associate
 Members

1:50 Free Will Baptist Press Report, Mr. Cliff Gray
2:05 Home Missions and Evangelism Report, the Rev.
David C. Hansley

2:20	Minister's Program Report, the Rev. Don Fader
2:35	Mount Olive College Report, Dr. J. William Byrd
2:50	Retirement Homes Report
3:05	Sunday School Ministry Report, Mrs. Mary Dudley
3:20	Task Force Committee Report
	Benediction

EVENING SESSION

7:30 Missions Rally College Hall

Thursday, September 12, 1996

MORNING SESSION

8:30	Final Registration
9:00	Congregational Singing Special Music
9:10	Scripture and Prayer, Stephen Prescott
9:20	Chaplain's Commission Report, the Rev. Adrian Grubbs
9:25	Ministerial Association Report, the Rev. Harold Swinson
9:30	Layman's League Report, John Newton
9:40	Woman's Auxiliary Report, Carolyn Jernigan
9:50	Carolina Bible Institute, Dr. Joseph Ingram
10:00	Worship Service Message, the Rev. Leon Grubbs
11:10	Camp Vandemere
11:10	Historical Commission, Dr. Michael Pelt
11:20	League Convention Report
11:30	Free Will Baptist Student Fellowships. Dr. K. David Hines
11:40	Final Report of the Credential Committee, the Rev. Walt Iyndall
11:45	Obituary Committee Report
11:50	Resolutions Committee Report
12:00	Recess for Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 Congregational Singing
1:40 Scripture and Prayer,
the Rev. John Robert Harris
Miscellaneous Business
Closing Ceremony



September

Is Home Missions and Evangelism Month



SUN	MON	TUE	
1	2	3	4
	Headquarters Closed <i>Labor Day</i>	+ FWB Press Stockholders Meeting, Ayden FWB Church, 10:00 AM * Mount Olive College Fall Convention	
8	9	10	11
<i>Grandparents Day</i>	▼ Scouting Banquet, Mount Olive College Murphey Center, 6:30 PM	+ FWB Press Deadline ■ Night of Evangelism Mount Olive College, 7:00 PM ■ Free Will Baptist Convention —	Mount O
15	16	17	18
		* Mount Olive College Board of Trustees	
22	23	24	25
<i>Autumn Begins</i>			
29	30	1	2

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRE

G E N D

ous/following month

ent month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press

- ▼ Home Missions
- ◆ Layman's League
- * Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Convention
- * Woman's Auxiliary

THU		FRI		SAT	
5		6 ○ Sunday School Leadership Enhancement Banquet, Elm Grove, 7:00 PM		7	
12 ons Rally ge, 7:00 PM		13		14	
Olive College — September 10-12 ■					
19 ✿ Woman's Auxiliary, Eastern Conference, Spring Hope FWB		20		21	
26		27		28 ✿ Woman's Auxiliary, Central Conference, Harrell's Chapel	
3		4		5	
ber is Minister's Program Month					

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

A View From the Pew

Nehemiah 8:1-8

by Dr. Joe Ingram, President Carolina Bible Institute

God has ordained that the way He communicates His message to the world of people is through the preacher in the pulpit. Dr. Bill Bennett, in his book *Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead*, says, "Truth is conveyed through the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper when they are rightly observed." Truth can be put to music. Truth can be written and read. Truth can be shared through counseling, exhortation, and dialogue. But none of these media can ever replace preaching. Preaching is central to Christianity. When we substitute any conveyor of truth for preaching the truth, the church is weakened, and God's people become spiritually anemic. In fact, God has ordained preaching as His chief means of confronting fallen humanity with His saving message.

It is important that the person that is "viewed from the pew" be an example of the message of truth we preach. Unless the person in the pew can see the same truth in the life of the proclaimer, there will not be much truth proclaimed. Let us take a seat on the pew in our churches and see what is viewed by those who were present last Sunday. Let each of us that stepped into a pulpit last Sunday pull that outline we had and take a good look at our purpose for the hour and ask some very basic questions.

1. Was the message of sound doctrine? "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

Did your message convey a message of "sound doctrine?" First and foremost, we must be sure the message we deliver is the message of God — based on the Word of God. The words "sound doctrine" in Titus 2:1 means the doctrine and teaching of God's Word, the wholesome and healthy teaching of God's Word in contrast to the teaching of false teachers. Our message needs to make our people who hear it sound and healthy. It is the Word of God that will produce sound, healthy, and happy congregations. Are you sure that the message brought a conclusion in the minds of the hearers — that of understanding and love to the author of the message? The message is not to draw attention to the preacher or proclaimer, but to God, the author, or the one who gave you the message. Did your

people leave with Holy awe for the message or the messenger?

2. Did the message proclaim Jesus Christ and Him crucified? There is an emphasis in the Scriptures that what we preach should be Jesus and Him crucified.

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (1 Corinthians 1:23).

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5).

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35).

Paul made a deliberate decision and determined that the only worthy message to preach was Jesus and Him crucified. As Paul made Christ the very center of his message, we too must see to it that no other subject is worthy of our attention, no other subject is in greater need in the lives of the persons in the pews, than that of the Death of Christ. The preaching of Christ's Death is important because:

- A. It is by His Death that we are cleansed and freed from our sins. (Matthew 26:28, 1 Peter 2:24)
- B. It is by His Death that we are accepted and reconciled to God. (Eph. 1:6-7, Col. 1:20)
- C. It is by His Death that we are justified. (Romans 5:9).
- D. It is by His Death that we have access into the Holy Presence of God. (Hebrew 10:19-20)

3. Are we examples of the message we preach? There is a need for the pew to get beyond the pulpit and to the One for whom we speak. In order to do this, we must consider some obstacles that we are to overcome. Some points for us to ponder as we are viewed from the pew are:

A. We must make sure we live what we preach. Romans 2:21-24, Matthew 7:21-23, and Titus 1:16 admonishes us to live what we preach. Actions of the

preacher have been so unlike the message that the person in the pew is unable to "hear" the message. There are five frank and straightforward questions asked of the minister:

1. You who teach others, do you not teach yourselves? When you share and teach, do you listen to the same truth? What right do you have to tell others how to live if you do not live that way? This is hypocrisy, a sin that is viewed from the pew. As ministers, we must live what we preach and teach.
2. You who say that a person should not steal, do you steal? I am sure that honesty is a thing that is the goal of every preacher, but what is seen from the pew might cause some concerns. Do your work habits portray dishonesty? Could you be guilty of being late paying your bills, of ordering books or other things and not paying for them? Then there is the view from the pew of a minister that steals time or other things from your church and ministry. If you steal, what right do you have to say that others should not steal?
3. You who say that a person should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? What are you looking at, watching, reading, and hearing?

Do you — look a second time, read books, magazines, and novels that shade in porno? Have lustful thoughts, harbor sexual thoughts, dress in a way that is questionable to your calling? All of these things are seen from the pew before the message is heard.

4. You who abhor idols, do you commit sacrilege? The word "sacrilege" means to violate one's commitment to God — to consider something more important than God. Is your time, energy, tithes and commitment first to God, or are they given and used in other areas? What is the view from the pew?
5. "Thou that makest thy boast of the law though breaking the law dishonorest thou God." When you teach the Word of God and yet break the same Law, it gives cause to the enemies of God to blaspheme, curse, ridicule, mock, deny, insult, and profane the same Law. As Nathan pointed out to David in his sins that David had given "... great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme ..." (2 Samuel 12:14). "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6).

What do people see from the pew on Sunday as you deliver God's message? Is the vessel of deliverance pure, holy, clean that the message is undefiled?

Carolina Bible Institute

Annual Friendship Banquets

Great is thy faithfulness. We the alumni of CBI invite all the supporters and friends of CBI to our Annual Friendship Banquets. This is CBI's way of saying thanks for your faithfulness to our mission. As God continues to bless, and as you continue to give, we continue training God's people for ministry. Please, come and join us, for an evening of Thanks, Worship, and Praise to God to Father.

Place: Everetts Chapel FWB Fellowship Hall
Date: September 7, 1996
Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Black Jack FWB Fellowship Hall
Date: September 21, 1996
Time: 6:00 PM

For our preparation of the meal we need you to confirm your attendance by calling CBI (919-965-6364) and let us know how many will be coming.

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

by Julia Pate Gaskins

What are little boys made of? Frogs and snails and puppy dog tails. That's what little boys are made of. What are little girls made of? Sugar and spice and everything nice. That's what little girls are made of. We have heard this said all of our lives, but we know God made and gave to us our very special children.

Our camping season here at Camp Vandemere is over for 1996, and we have seen lots of little boys and lots of little girls. They were your children and you lent them to us for a week. Thank you! This has been quite an experience for Aldric and me. It has been a summer that we will never forget.

We have met lots of new people and renewed old friendships. We have seen water balloon fights, spectacular shaving cream fights, talent shows, contests, water sports and ball playing. The campers have fished and caught crabs. Then they cleaned and ate crabs. Our ladies in the kitchen cooked them and there was crab juice running off the elbows. Although most of our times have been happy, we have seen tears of sorrow as friends had to say goodbye to each other. The attitude of our campers have been remarkably good. They enjoyed the fun and games and the good food that we had.

I did not really want to leave my retirement and my home to come to Camp Vandemere to work, but as you know wherever the Lord leads your husband you follow. It has been a blessing and a joy to be here. As a Christian I sometimes become inflexible and resistant to change because of inconvenience or lack of time. Sometimes I even use the excuse that I am too old, and then God has to remind me that I am not in charge of my life. God is in charge. I'm thankful that He sent Aldric and me here to experience the fellowship with these young people.

One thing that has impressed me is the dedication that our camp directors and their helpers have shown. They give their time and energy and their love to our campers and to God. They have planned special services and activities for each group. There is laughter, shouting and singing heard all across the campus. There are Bible studies and devotion times several times each day. Most importantly our young people rededicated their lives to God and several made first time decisions to serve God. I believe that angels rejoiced as these precious young people surrendered themselves to Him.

Please come visit us at Camp Vandemere. The blessings are many. I challenge you to be a light for the whole world. You can do this by praying for us and your camp. Shine for JESUS.

Camp Vandemere Day

Saturday, October 5, 1996 — 10:00 AM — 3:30 PM
Sandy Plains Original FWB Church

To all our Christian friends,

Greetings from all of us here at Camp Vandemere. We appreciate your prayerful support of the camp and it's activities. We would like to extend to you an invitation to a special day for Camp Vandemere — Camp Vandemere Day.

In cooperation with the Third Union of the Eastern Conference, Sandy Plains is hosting a day with Camp Vandemere. The day will begin at 10:00 AM with the Union's scheduled session. Included will be speakers giving highlights of the year's camp season.

After the morning session, hot dogs, drinks, chips, and other refreshing items will be sold with the proceeds going to Camp Vandemere. The fun continues with our third annual "Hoop It For Christ Basketball Tournament." If you have a team that would like to participate, please fill out the form and return it to the person named below. Space is limited, so register early.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday October 5 for a day of wonderful fellowship. A special word of thanks to Sandy Plains Church and the Third Union for thinking of Camp Vandemere.

Registration for Hoop It For Christ
(\$15 per team, payable that day)

Four on Four Basketball Tournament

Saturday, October 5, 1996 — 1:00 PM — 3:30 PM
Sandy Plains Original FWB Church

Church Name: _____ Pastor: _____

Team Coach (may be a player): _____

Phone: _____

Team Members

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

By listing your name above you agree to release both Camp Vandemere and Shady Plains Church from any liability due to injuries received. You may send registration forms or address any questions you may have to:

Rev. Tim Heath

601 Turkey Point Road • Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

A History of

Mt. Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church

In September 1896 a revival meeting was held at the Davenport School House by the Rev. J. R. McCasky. The Rev. D. W. Arnold, a Christian Minister and school teacher, led the singing during the revival. Twenty-four people made confessions and a number of them were baptized. The others had been previously baptized. On the 10th day of September, 1896, a Free Will Baptist Church was organized by the Rev. McCasky. The following were charter members: male members—H. W. Tarkington, Stephen Clifton, Jerome B. Phelps, Alex Davenport, Jordan A. Furlough, M. H. Holton, E. L. Hassell, Daniel Davenport, Jeremiah Hassell, A. G. Overton, M. D. Haire, Stewart Phelps, Jordan Phelps; female members—Sarah Phelps, Verdonia Davenport, Ann E. Davenport, Valerie Spruill, Cynthia Hassell, Alice Tarkington, Nancy W. Phelps, Emma Tarkington, Mary C. Ambrose, Eliza Phelps, Ophelia Spruill and Carrie Phelps.

After the Church was organized, a conference was held and the following members were elected to serve as officers of the Church: Clerk, H. W. Tarkington; Treasurer, Stephen Clifton; deacons, Jordan A. Furlough & Jerome B. Phelps; elders, Alex Davenport, M. H. Holton, E. L. Hassell. At this time it was agreed to build a house of worship. A building committee was appointed of Jerome Phelps, Stephen Clifton, H. W. Tarkington, and E. L. Hassell. A site was obtained, and the building was begun. On the second Sunday in March 1897, the first service was held in the new building. At a later date the Church was dedicated and named Mt. Tabor by the Rev. J. R. McCasky.

The deed to the Church property states that it is given by Thomas W. Ambrose and his brother, John R. Ambrose, "unto the Free Will Baptist denomination for the purpose of building a Freewill Baptist Church for the purpose of holding divine worship of Almighty God on said land." The deed is dated 12th day of September, 1896.

In the years following building and dedicating the Church, until the forties, there are few records available, as the written Church minutes and some other records were destroyed when the home of the Church clerk was burned. The original deed survived, probably by being in the hands of another Church officer. The Church apparently grew as it survived in its early years. It was the focal point of the community life as it struggled through the hard years of WWI, the twenties, the Great Depression, and WWII. It was a place where the neighbors could gather to gain strength from each other as well as from their Maker and Creator.

Worship services were held on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday school was held every Sunday morning. At least one Revival Meeting was held each summer and was the highlight of the Church year. It was during this series of

meetings held every night (sometimes in the mornings also) for at least one week that resulted in most conversions with baptisms held at a nearby river or sound shore, after which the new converts usually became members of Mt. Tabor Free Will Baptist Church.

Since there were few automobiles, many walked to these services on the dirt roads. Some would drive carts or wagons pulled by the farm horse or mule and tie up to a tree on the Church yard during the services. In cold weather, children would be wrapped comfortably. Parents would bring quilts for the little ones to take a nap during services. Sometimes a little tea cake or biscuit would help keep them occupied as the mother listened attentively to the message. Larger children sat on the center row of pews with the men on one side and the women on the other to keep an eye on them and administer discipline if and when necessary. Sometimes the smallest children would be asleep at the end of the service and the cart or wagon would be brought to the open windows so they could be passed through with as little disturbance as possible.

In the summer time, after the Revival Meeting service was a good time to fellowship (a tradition we still like). Home-made ice cream was sometimes sold at a little wooden stand at the far corner of the Church yard. They also had a washtub containing ice and soft drinks. In later years, many stopped at the little country stores in the neighborhood and chatted with their friends for a while as they enjoyed a cold Pepsi or Coke on the way home. As automobiles and electricity modernized the community and speeded things along there was always time to fellowship with friends and family.

In 1943, the five Sunday school rooms were built onto the back of the Church building. An entrance was added to the front of the Church in 1945 at the request of the Church's youth (or teenage) Sunday school class. They accepted the responsibility of helping raise money to pay for this as their special project and did very well with it.

Until 1949, the Church was heated by wood heaters. At that time, a gas floor furnace heating system was installed.

The Woman's Auxiliary purchased the pulpit furniture in 1954. It is still in use as well as the pews they purchased in 1957.

The Ladies Bible Class initiated the refinishing of the interior of the sanctuary in 1955 and adding the restrooms in 1956.

The building was underpinned in 1957 and in 1961 the brick veneer was added.

In 1966 the parsonage was begun on land given to the Church for that purpose by Melvin Davenport and his wife, Verdie. Logs for most of the building materials came from

the Church property and that of some of the members. A building committee, along with a local carpenter, supervised the construction. Many long hours of free labor were given by the Church members who felt the Lord was leading in this project and trusting Him to send a minister who could live in the community. The Church borrowed \$10,000 from the local bank and raised the remaining funds to complete the building in June of 1967. The first pastor to occupy the parsonage was the Rev. Cecil Rose with his family. He preached two Sundays each month at Mt. Tabor and two Sundays at the Soundside Free Will Baptist Church in Tyrrell County, with their helping pay his expenses. In 1969, we changed to full time ministry of four Sundays each month.

In October, 1988, the parsonage was destroyed by a tornado. It was completely restored in a short time—again, mostly by the labor of Church members—and the pastor, Dale Weaver, moved back home. The house is basically the same but the trees around it were all destroyed. It will be many years before we can forget the experience. The Rev. Weaver and his wife were at home as the tornado demolished the house, but God protected them and they were unharmed—truly a modern day miracle!

In 1978, Mt. Tabor membership voted at its regular business meeting (held quarterly) to build a fellowship building. This was accomplished in the same manner as the building of the parsonage. It seems our people became closer than ever when these projects were in progress. The fellowship building was completed enough for the annual Homecoming, although the inside was not finished. Members donated money, time, materials or whatever was needed in order to have this place we could hold meetings, fellowship dinners, and community affairs of many kinds. The various organizations within the Church held fundraising dinners and other projects and the building was paid for completely in about two years. Needless to say, it has been a great asset and we feel now that we could not do without it!

In 1994 a renovation plan was adopted for improvements to our sanctuary and classrooms. It required expansion of the present building. The new Sunday school rooms section was begun on the back of the building and in March of this year

we began using these new rooms—all completed with no debt. Hopefully, the remaining renovations will be started soon.

The youth of the church began a campaign in 1995 to put a steeple on the church. Our pastor, Keith Pelletier, distributed banks to each child, calling them a “Stevie Steeple Club.” Each quarter they brought the banks and made their special offerings. In this way they have raised several thousand dollars to have the steeple erected in time to celebrate our 100th anniversary this fall.

Mount Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church is a member of the Albemarle Free Will Baptist Conference and a member of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Local organizations within the Church include:

Mt. Tabor Woman’s Auxiliary (meets daytime, monthly)

Ginnie Mae Woman’s Auxiliary (meets nights, monthly)

Men’s Bible Class (meets monthly)

Youth Groups (meet monthly & participate in Church services)

Children’s Church (every Sunday morning)

Mt. Tabor supports Mt. Olive College, The Children’s Home at Middlesex NC, Foreign and Home Missions. We recommend Cragmont (our Denomination’s mountain retreat) to our members and support its work and operation along with the other enterprises of the Original Free Will Baptists.

We truly feel blessed at Mt. Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church. The past years have been filled with good times and sad times. We have had new members and their families move into our Church family, some moved away and some have gone Home with the Lord. Times change—and while we look back at the past memories with a great mixture of emotions, we also look forward to the future with hope and ambition, trusting the promises of the Same Lord to take care of that as He has so wonderfully blessed our past.

As we celebrate our centennial anniversary on the second Sunday in October, we invite all former pastors, members, families, and friends to return to Mt. Tabor and enjoy fellowship and worship our Lord with us.

by Virginia C. Haire

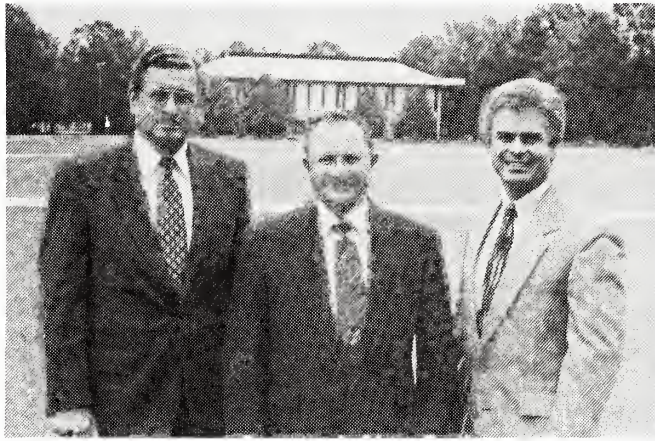
from material compiled by Ruth Ambrose

Dolly Davenport & Church records

Looking For:

The Rev. J. R. McCaskey was the preacher who founded Mt. Tabor Free Will Baptist Church in 1896. He was also instrumental in at least one other church in the area. We do not have any further information about him or his family and are curious to know something about them. Where was he from? If he has descendants in the area, we would like to contact them and invite them to our centennial celebration. Please send any information to: Virginia C. Haire, 2276 Mt. Tabor Road, Creswell, NC 27928.

James A. Evans Lecture at Mount Olive College



The Reverend J. Harold Swinson, pastor of Free Union FWB Church in Beaufort County, received the P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award for outstanding service to the church. Moments after receiving the award, the Rev. Swinson (center) poses with Dr. W. Burkette Raper (left) and Dr. K. David Hines (right) on the Mount Olive campus.



Approximately 30 Free Will Baptist ministers and their spouses gathered at Mount Olive College on Monday, August 5, for the Third Annual James A. Evans Lecture. Dr. Vernon E. Wall was the guest speaker. The day's events consisted of three sessions and a luncheon.



Dr. Vernon E. Wall (left) presented this year's James A. Evans lecture for ministers and their wives in three sessions at Mount Olive College on August 5. His theme was "Caring For the Care Giver." Dr. K. David Hines (right) was organizer and host for the annual event.

PASTOR NEEDED

Palmer Memorial FWB Church in Garner, NC is seeking a pastor. Any minister interested in applying is asked to call Glenn Dupree at 919-772-0136

Sidney FWB Church is searching for a full-time pastor. If you are interested contact: Mr. Edward Clayton, 394 S. Savannah Road, Belhaven, NC 27810; 919-964-4752

White Hill FWB Church is seeking a pastor. If you are interested, contact: Gary Jordan, PO Box 519, Aurora, NC 27806; 919-322-5615

Black Jack FWB Church, Greenville, NC is seeking an Associate Pastor for Youth. **Requirements:** Responsible Christian individual who has the ability to develop and implement youth programs in an Original Free Will Baptist atmosphere. **Qualifications:** College degree in related area or appropriate job experience. **Term of Employment:** Prefer full-time. **General responsibilities:** 1. Develop and implement plan for youth department. 2. Assist pastor in routine duties. 3. Plan, coordinate, and implement youth programs and activities. For application information, call the Black Jack FWB Church at (919) 752-6485. **Application Deadline: September 15, 1996.**

NOTICE

Charles Owens is no longer a licensed minister of the Central Conference.

Central Conference
Ordaining Council

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary is offering a study course on October 26, 1996 at Core Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Cove City. Registration will begin at 9:30. The session should last until around 11:00. No lunch will be served. A course on the Manual of Methods will be presented by the officers of the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee. Everyone is invited to attend.

PASTOR AVAILABLE

The Rev. L. Grady Tucker will be available for full-time or part-time pastoral service and or Revival services effective October 7, 1996.

Contact the Rev. Tucker at
705 River Road
New Bern, NC
919-633-0986

The Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez is available for full-time or part-time pastorate.

Contact the Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez at
6410 Black Creek Road
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-4414

Jerry E. Rowe is available for regular, supply, or interim pastorate with commuting distance from his residence in the Newport, NC area.

Contact Jerry E. Rowe at
138 Pearson Circle
Newport, NC 28570
919-393-8890

NEW PUBLICATION

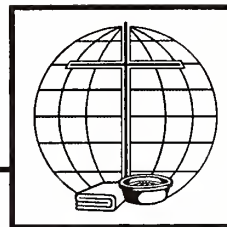
Dr. Micahel Pelt has announced that his book, entitled *A History of Original Free Will Baptists* will be published in September by the Mount Olive College Press and printed by the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden. It is expected that copies of the book will be available for purchase at the annual session of the Convention, September 10-12 and at other Denominational meetings this fall.

EASTERN DISTRICT FALL YOUTH CONVENTION

will be on September 14.

It will be held at Bethlehem FWB Church. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the Convention begins at 10:00 AM and will end around noon.

For more information anyone could contact me at
919-244-0389 or 919-707-2521.



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN CHAPEL

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL HAS YOUTH SUNDAY

Christian Chapel FWB Church in Pink Hill had Youth Sunday on July 14th. The youth had charge of Sunday school and of the Worship service. Listed below are the youth who took part in Youth Sunday:

Beginners — Ashely Sphere, Abby Sutton
Primary — Cari Howard, Danielle Stroud
Youth Extra — Janet Griffin
Adult I — Jessica Stoud
Adult II — Leslie Smith
Adult III — Heather Tyndall
Superintendent — Brandon Marshburn
Pianist — Rod Smith, Cynthia Smith
Special Music — Youth Choir, Mitchell Sutton
Speaker — Rod Smith
Choir Leader — Kelly Tyndall

We at Christian Chapel are proud of our youth and pray that they will continue in their walk for Jesus.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

On July 28, 1996, the youth sponsored homemade ice cream and cake to raise money for their ski trip and Florida trip planned for later. The youth really appreciate the adults of the church standing behind them with their prayers and their support.

SURPRISE ANNIVERSARY PARTY

On Wednesday, July 31 the church gave their pastor, the Rev. Steve Hargrove and his wife, Wallie, a surprise anniversary party. They have been married thirty-one years on July 31. A beautiful cake and many other goodies were provided and enjoyed by everyone. Steve and Wallie want to thank their church family for loving them and showing that love. They really appreciated the many cards and gifts.

NEWS FROM ELM GROVE CHURCH

4TH OF JULY MUSICAL PROGRAM

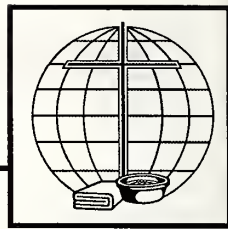


Sunday, July 7, the youth of Elm Grove FWB Church were in charge of the morning worship service. They presented a Fourth of July Musical Program. The youth were dressed in white choir robes, red stoles, and red, white and blue hats. All the youth from the tiny tots to the older teenagers took part.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School was held, July 8-12. Joann Wade, the director, worked very hard to make our Bible school a great success. We had classes for all ages. The average attendance was 100 each night. On Sunday night the commencement was held. Each class sang songs and told some of the things they had done through the week. After the service everyone enjoyed refreshments. The crafts that had been done throughout the week were on display. Even though Hurricane Bertha came through and cancelled Friday night we had a great week.



BETHLEHEM YOUTH NEWS

submitted by Billie Ard

On the morning of June 9, 1996, four students of the Junior Sunday school class at Bethlehem received recognition for participating in a Bible Study entitled "True Love Waits" and were presented with a True Love Waits Bible and pendant. The theme was on Sexual Purity and those students who participated were challenged to sexual abstinence until marriage. Focusing first on Jesus Christ and how important it is to have a pure heart, the challenge was then given to sign the covenant card which states... *Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a Biblical marriage relationship.* The Bible study included 5 lessons with topics on 1) Changing into a new you. 2) Is sex a secret? 3) Getting along with friends. 4) Getting along with family. 5) Sex and Problem subjects.

Our Scripture was taken from 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. Abstinence until marriage was the emphasis of the message. In this day and age, we must challenge our teens to say that

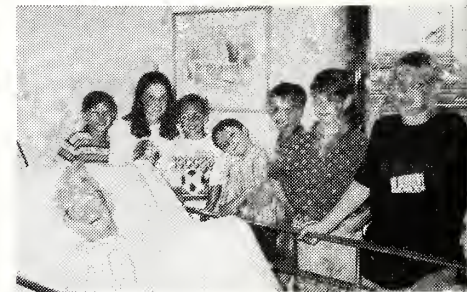
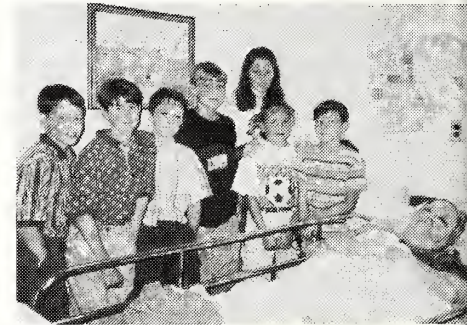
abstinence is okay. The purpose of the emphasis is to inspire, inform, and call youth to adhere to the Biblical mandate from God and commit to refraining from sex before marriage.



Pictured in the photo left to right are Meredith Brown, Danielle Strickland, Jonathan Simpson, and Jeremie Fountain.

The Bethlehem Junior Choir went out on visitation June 9th to visit two members at Kenansville Hospital. They sang encouraging words to the songs entitled "Heaven is a Wonderful Place" and "The Lord is My Shepherd." Before leaving they presented both ladies with a care package and had prayer. Everyone involved

received a blessing. We thank God for allowing our young people to touch lives in this way.



Pictured in the photos are Bethlehem Junior Choir with Ms. Irene Schwitzer and Ms. Aileen Horne.

Open Arms Ministries Presents: Youth In Action

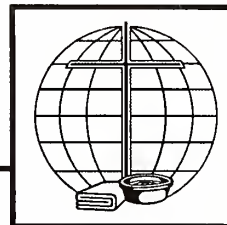
This will be a night of skits, drama, Christian commercials, and singing by various young people. Straight Up (UNPLUGGED) will preform a few songs and Glenn Mills will bring the Word of the Lord. This is an event young people will not want to miss.

Place: Rose Hill FWB (Ayden)

Date: October 26, 1996

Time: 7:00 PM

For more information contact Glenn Mills 919-735-3916 or Leon Harris 919-746-4320.



First Free Will Baptist Church 75th Anniversary 1921 1996 Wilson, NC

Praising God for 75 years of His blessings in Christian service!

Extending a cordial invitation for you and your loved ones to come and fellowship with us on our annual Homecoming Day, Sunday, October 13, 1996. Services will begin at 10:30 AM with special speakers, special singing, and lots of surprises. An oldfashioned picnic lunch will follow the morning worship service.

This Homecoming is notable because it will culminate our 75 years of celebration. This opportunity to celebrate 75 years in the life of our church come once in a lifetime. Please come worship and fellowship with us.

First Original Free Will Baptist Church
910 Granger Street
Wilson, North Carolina 27893
Wayne King, Pastor

ENTIRE FAMILY SAVED AND BAPTIZED

It is not an everyday happening when an entire family will be saved and baptized at the same time, but such was the occasion at Smyrna Church. We want to share with others God's work.

On May 5, 1996, the pastor, Reverend Ronnie Hayes was privileged to baptize both parents and their three children.

Pictured front row left to right: Cameron and Chason, back row left to right; Curtis, Carla, and Cindy Allen.



WESTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION UNION GROVE FWB CHURCH FREMONT, NC OCTOBER 2, 1996

Theme: God Provides for His People
(Retirement Homes)

Scripture: Psalm 37:5

Morning Session

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Hymn
Devotion – Virginia Yawn
Welcome – Agnes Corbitt
President's Remarks
- 9:50 Hymn
Convention Offering
Reports from our Denominational Ministries – Rev. Scott Sowers
Youth Report
- 10:30 Memorial Service – Joyce Edmundson
- 10:40 Business Session
Break
- 11:20 Hymn
Report from Retirement Homes
Offering for Retirement Homes
Special Music – Union Grove Church
Convention Message – Rev. James Joyner
Benediction
- 12:30 Lunch



ST. PAUL CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

1996 is the 75th anniversary for St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabeth City. The homecoming celebration begins Saturday night, October 5, 1996 at 7 PM with the Four In Christ in concert. On Sunday morning, October 6, we begin our Sunday school hour at 10 AM with a presentation of our 75 years of history. Our worship hour begins at 10:45 AM with more special music and powerful preaching. The Rev. David Charles Hansley will be our homecoming speaker. An old-fashioned barbecue on the grounds will follow the morning worship service. Come dressed as our founding members did in 1921! All who have been associated with St. Paul through the years are especially welcome. The Rev. Paul Grubbs and congregation extend a warm welcome to all who can come and help us celebrate 75 years of God's blessings at St. Paul.

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Hosted by
Spring Hope FWB Church
New Bern, NC

September 19, 1996

THEME: "A Win-Some Witness"

SCRIPTURE: "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6).

ORDER OF SERVICE

- 9:30 Registration
- 9:50 Music Medley
- 10:00 Call to Order, Nina Grace Register
- Prayer for Convention
- Hymn #167, "Jesus Calls Us"
- 10:15 Welcome, Eva Mae Clark, President, Spring Hope Auxiliary
- Response, Ola Smith, Macedonia, Ernul
- 10:20 Devotions, Debbie Jackson, Sandy Plains Auxiliary
- 10:30 President's Remarks, Happy Taylor, Smith's New Home
- Appointment of Committees
- 10:40 Report of Denominational Ministries

- 11:00 Hymn #345, "Let Others See Jesus in You"
- 11:05 Business Session
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Appointment of Committees
- Convention Offering, Camp Vandemere
- Memorial Service, Janie Wilson, Pleasant Grove, Pikeville
- 11:25 Special Music, Host Church
- 11:30 Worship Service, Rev. Doug Randall, Pastor, Spring Hope
- 12:00 Hymn #207, "He Hideth My Soul"
- Miscellaneous Business
- Report of Committees
- Lunch Announcement
- 12:15 Benediction and Blessing, Rev. Doug Randall, Spring Hope



ALBEMARLE UNION MEETING SOUND SIDE FWB CHURCH COLUMBIA, NC September 28, 1996

Opening Session

- Pianist, Mrs. Lucille Jones
- 10:00 Devotions, Rev. Keith Pelletier
- Welcome, Host Church
- Response, Rev. William Mobley
- Moderator's Address
- Recognition of Visiting Ministers
- Roll Call of Ministers
- Roll Call of Churches
- Announcements
- Offering
- Prayer Request and Prayer Time

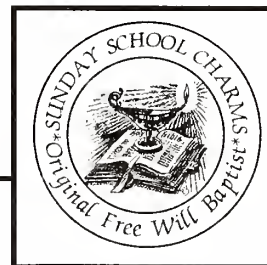
Business Session

- Old Business
- New Business
- Report of Standing Committees
- Report of Ministers
- Children's Home
- Mt. Olive College
- FWB Press
- Home Missions
- Foreign Missions
- Cragmont Assembly
- Retirement Homes
- Ministers' Program
- Sunday School Board

11:00 Worship Service

- Hymn
- Special Music, Host Church
- Testimonies
- Message, Rev. C. H. Overman
- Benediction
- Adjournment and Lunch

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



Sunday School Leadership Banquet

**FOR
PASTORS, SUPERINTENDENTS, CHAIRPERSONS OF
SUNDAY SCHOOL COUNCIL AND/OR BOARD OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

ELM GROVE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1996

7:00 PM

COST OF MEAL: \$10.00 PER PERSON

PAID IN ADVANCE

Complete the bottom portion, detach and return by
September 3, 1996

to:

Sunday School Board

Post Office Box 39

Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0039

Number of people attending Sunday School Banquet _____

Fee enclosed at \$10.00 per person _____

Signature _____



FIFTY YEARS IN THE MINISTRY

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart," (2 Corinthians 4:1 NIV).

Some Things I Have Learned

In this feature of *Golden Years* I would like to share what I consider some of the most important things I have learned from a half-century of Christian ministry, including my work as a pastor and as a college president. My ordination was in October 1946, at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, Middlesex, NC, where I had lived from the age of eight through graduation from high school. At that time, I was nineteen years old and in my junior year of college.

The decision to enter the ministry was not a struggle but a growing response to what I believed was God's purpose for my life. Although I did not foresee all the directions in which this calling would carry me, it was a decision upon which I have not looked back. I considered it a call from God, and that was the end of it.

In my view, God's calling was not until I reached age sixty-five but for life. Now, as I begin the next phase of my ministry, I look upon the experiences of the past as God's preparation for the challenge and joy of my new work. What have the years taught me?

That God Is Real. As a young minister, I sometimes felt the need to intellectually prove the existence of God. When I was a student in college, the prevailing view was that all truth is demonstrable and since there was not scientific way to verify the existence of God, belief in Him was not intellectually defensible.

What my mind, however, could not prove, experience has. For fifty years, I have staked my life on the reality of God. Surely, this view is an act of faith, but we all live far more by faith than we do by knowledge. Belief in love, for example, is an act of faith: we cannot prove to anyone that we love them unless they are willing to believe that we do. Through experiences far beyond my understanding, I have

learned not only that God is real but that He can be trusted. It is this truth that has sustained me in the past and which I unreservedly trust for the future.

That People Are The Most Important Thing In The World. Institutions, organizations, schedules, philosophy and even theology are important only in terms of the contributions they make for the good of humanity. God loves *people*. Everything He created was for the benefit of *people*, and it was for *people* that our Lord gave His life. *People* were the masterpiece of God's creation, and, I believe that to help make life better for others is our most noble work.

That Relationships Are Of Supreme Value. Regardless of our wealth or station in life, our happiness is inseparable from our relationship with people. What makes home so tender is not so much its location as the relationships we experience. No pain is comparable to broken relationships whether in the family, the workplace, the church, or the larger society. Perhaps the most accurate measure of our maturity is the quality of relationships we are able to develop and maintain.

That Time Is Both Limited and Inexhaustible. Time comes to us in fixed amounts: sixty minutes to the hour, and twenty-four hours in a day. We all have the same amount. The older we get, the more precious time becomes, but there is no way we can manufacture more. Time, however, is a man-made standard of measurement; God's standard is eternity.

That If We Are Free From Within, Nothing From Without Can Enslave Us. We view slavery as one person being owned or controlled by another, but there is an even greater tyranny that we often impose upon ourselves: envy, anger, egotism, and greed. These attitudes are a more deadly form of slavery than chains. Long ago I decided, by the grace of God,

that regardless of what someone said about me or did to me, I was not going to let them poison my heart and mind with bitterness. As long as we are in control of our inner life, we are free.

I make no claim that the views expressed here as new discoveries, only that they are truths which experience has confirmed for me. There is a frantic world out there and it will crush us if we will let it. The ultimate measure of life, however, is not what life does to us but what we, with God's help, do with life.

(The comments and suggestions of readers are always welcomed: 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365)

W. Burkette Raper

Ordained October 31, 1946

**The family invites you to
Service of Thanksgiving
for**

**Fifty years in the Christian ministry
Eleven o'clock**

Saturday, October 26, 1996

Rodgers Chapel

Mount Olive College

Mount Olive, North Carolina

***Luncheon following
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center***

RSVP

619 West Main Street

Mount Olive, NC 28365

Home: 919-658-3855

Office: 919-658-5250



Free Will Baptist

Retirement Homes

is pleased to announce

the selection of a new

Executive Director.



The Rev. Bruce Dudley

will assume his duties on

September 1, 1996

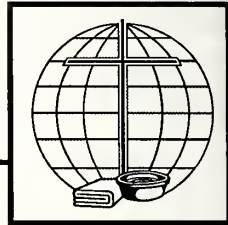


Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



Convention Approaching

In a few short days, the eighty-fourth annual session of Original Free Will Baptists will convene on the campus of Mount Olive College. Delegates, ministers, associate members, fraternal delegates, and visitors will gather on September 10-12 for the 1996 Convention. There is an excitement in the air as this yearly event approaches.

This year's theme heralds forth the "Call to Worship," and the planned program will offer us the opportunity to worship our Lord and King. We will be ushered into the presence of God by means of music, preaching, prayer, and fellowship.

The Rev. Lowell Burrus is the guest speaker for the Night of Evangelism. Mr. Burrus will also deliver the message to the Convention on Wednesday morning during the worship service. The pastor of Olive Branch Church of God, located in Roann, Indiana, Mr. Burrus has been involved in rural church ministry for the last three decades.

The Rev. Antonio Escobar will speak on Wednesday evening during the Missions Rally. Mr. Escobar serves as the field director of the work in Mexico.

The Rev. Leon Grubbs will deliver the message during the Thursday morning worship service. Mr. Grubbs is vice president of the Convention. He serves as pastor of Hull Road Church, located near Snow Hill, NC.

During the session, reports of the various ministries and auxiliaries of the Convention will be heard. Reports of Convention committees will be given and acted upon. The business of the Convention will be transacted.

A special reception has been planned in honor of Original Free Will Baptist ministers following the Missions Rally on Wednesday evening. This make-your-own sundae activity will provide enjoyment and a time for everyone to see old friends and to make new ones. It will also help us all show our ministers how much

we appreciate them and their work.

There will be times of business and times of worship; there will be time for encouragement and time for fellowship. God is doing great things among Original Free Will Baptists. He is also calling us to greater depths of commitment. Let us hear His call and respond.

Convention Committee Appointments

Much of the work of the Annual Convention is done by committees. The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention, has made the following committee appointments (the person whose name is in italics will serve as chair of the committee):

Resolutions Committee--Harold Swinson (Albemarle), *Fred Baker* (Cape Fear), Harry Grubbs (Central), James Gurganus (Eastern), Billy Hardee (Pee Dee), David Atkins (Piedmont), James Joyner (Western).

Obituary Committee--Robert May (Albemarle), Henry Armstrong (Cape Fear), J. B. Narron (Central), *Bryant Hines* (Eastern), Freddie Edwards (Pee Dee), Hazel Brown (Piedmont), Billy Yawn (Western).

Nominating Committee--Lloyd Jones (Albemarle), Phillip Boykin (Cape Fear), Walter Reynolds (Central), Adrian Grubbs (Eastern), Garland Suggs (Pee Dee), Austin Carter (Piedmont), *De Wayne Eakes* (Western).

Parliamentarians--Ronnie Hobgood, Bruce Dudley.

Timekeepers--Jesse Fulcher, Lewis Forsyth.

Sound--Doug Skinner.

Ushers--Al Markuson, chairman.

Clergy Appreciation Day

H. B. London Jr. and Neil B. Wiseman, in their new book *Your Pastor Is an Endangered Species*, remind us that "affirmation and praise are infectious" (flyleaf.) In their wake-up call to the local church, they present practical ideas that a congregation can use to honor her pastor:

Offer a sincere word or note of appreciation, and do it regularly.

Celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

Surprise him with random acts of kindness.

Push for self-care.

Budget for a missions or Holy Land trip.

Pray for him and his family daily.

Another suggestion London and Wiseman make is that the church promote an annual Pastor's Appreciation Day. This idea is one which we would like churches to consider. October 13, 1996, has been designated throughout the nation as "Clergy Appreciation Day." What better time would there be than this for you to join believers throughout the land and say, "We really appreciate you (and your family). Thank you for all you do for us!"

If you would like information and suggestions for planning such a day, please contact me (Headquarters address: Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; phone: 919-746-4963). I will rush information back to you so you can complete your plans.

Dates Available

Would you like to know more about the work of the Convention? If so, I am available to visit your church. I would be glad to talk with you about the work that is going on in the Denomination and to share ways in which you and your church can assist in this work. I would be happy to answer questions you might have about this office, the Denomination, and our plans for the future. (My address and phone number are given above.)

An Apology

In the August issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, I indicated that I would address funds more fully in this issue. Because of time and space restraints, I will not be able to do so. I will, however, discuss funds in the October issue.

THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

JESUS, MASTER STRATEGIST

by Dr. Robert D. Dale

Director, Center of Creative Church Leadership Development, Richmond, VA

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

The Bible is a strategy book and, as such, "thinks strategically" about our salvation. Scripture speaks of the fullness of time, counting costs, reaping ripe harvests, and being called to the kingdom for such times as these. The point is clear. God does nothing haphazardly. God acts on purpose: our salvation was planned by God even before the Creation (1 Peter 1:20). God also works on schedule: Christ was sent to us only after God had ripened the time (Galatians 4:4). When God sent His Son to redeem us, Jesus came to earth with a ministry strategy.

What's Leadership Strategy?

Good leaders typically work from strategies. Leaders know what their objectives are and have some broad idea of how they will try to achieve them. The idea of strategy apparently was developed by generals in the ancient Greek army. Consequently, the word itself refers to generalship. Strategy describes the process of finding an advantage or edge and then capitalizing on it.

As a rule, strategists try to identify some distinct result they want or some resource or some relationship they possess, and then they attempt to enlarge that advantage. In our day, coaches, military leaders, and planners employ strategy. For those of us who are Christian leaders, it's important for us to remember that Jesus provides us with a wholesome model of leadership strategy.

Learning the Craft

Jesus may have learned the craft of strategy in Joseph's carpenter shop. As apprentice to the village woodworker, Jesus learned as a youngster to visualize a piece of furniture. Imagine a townsman

ordering a table for his home from Jesus. Jesus went into the forest and selected a tree that *contained* that particular table. He, then, would have painstakingly and lovingly created the table by cutting and planing away all of the wood that didn't *look like a table*. In other words, carpenters in Jesus' day were designers, foresters, and woodcrafters who *saw* a product and devised a plan for producing that item. The pattern of strategizing remains the same.

The craft of strategy development must have impressed Jesus. He realized that strategy combines heads full of information, hearts full on concern, and hands calloused from experience. Together, these forces join in envisioning, planning, and acting for specific ends. Later, when Jesus was ready to launch his ministry, he set out with a target objective as well as a pattern of actions already in mind.

Aiming for the Target

The first step in strategy development is choosing a core vision. This motivating dream becomes our target and the object of our pursuit. Targeted visions provide the long-range objective, keep actions on course, and give outsiders a way to understand our behaviors. *For Jesus, the basic ministry vision was the kingdom of God.* He spoke of it more than any other theme, a total of about eighty references in the Gospels. Jesus called on us to yield our lives — singly and together — to the rule of God, to invite God to be our king. Jesus lived and died for God's Kingdom. It was His motive and His message.

Notice how clear Jesus was about His direction in ministry (Luke 4). When He was tempted, He rejected three "empire building" options — the pleasure principle, the power principle, and the parade principle

— in favor of the “kingdom building” lifestyle of service to God and the values of His Kingdom (Luke 4:14–19). Strategy has practical applications: it helps leaders decide what to do — and what to avoid doing.

Selecting Strategies

When a reason for living and leading has been identified, then key strategies for implementing that vision can be selected. Think of the four Gospels — Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John — as Books about Jesus’ leadership and ministry strategies. While all of them tell the same story of Jesus’ and His works and words, each Gospel illustrates a distinctive leadership strategy Jesus used in His ministry.

Mark, the earliest of the Gospels to be written, demonstrates a *communication strategy*: *choose your message and keep it lean and lively*. Sometimes called the “motion picture” Gospel for its fast pace and high energy level, Mark begins with Jesus announcing the kingdom (Mark 1:15) and moves swiftly straight ahead from powerful event to miracle to the Cross and Resurrection. Mark came right to the point — and struck with the kingdom theme all the way through the Book. His “keep it simple and swift” approach is what leadership specialists describe as a bias for action.

Matthew was written to tell the Jews about Jesus. He adopted an *audience strategy*: *appeal to a specific group*. Matthew begins by tracing Jesus’ family tree back to Abraham, quotes the Old Testament heavily, and shows Jesus frequently teaching in the fashion of

a priest or rabbi. Likewise, Matthew demonstrated one of the dark sides of choosing a special, target audience: he noted Jesus’ denunciation of those who are in the selected audience but who rejected His appeal (Matthew 23).

Luke used the flipside of Matthew’s strategy. Luke, the only Gentile writer in the New Testament, stressed that Christ had died for all of us. Consequently, he applied a *global strategy*: *reach out to new, unreached groups*. Luke spoke more to Samaritans, outcasts, women, and the poor than the other Gospel writers — and often made his point through Jesus’ unforgettable parables and metaphors.

John’s Gospel depicted another crucial strategy point. John used a *symbolic strategy*, *aligning works and words*. He structured his story of Jesus around seven “signs,” a presentation of miracles followed by sermon-like explanations. John knew the reinforcing power of actions and statements — in tandem and in agreement.

Strategy and You

Strategic thinking, as shown in the Bible and in Jesus’ life, can help you as a person and as a Christian. Ask yourself these questions. What is my core vision in life and service? What distinctive strength do I have to offer? What is the best way I can share my distinctiveness with others? When you answer these questions and put your answers into actions, you’ve become a strategist too — like your Master.

Biographical Information

Dr. Robert D. Dale

Birth: August 23, 1940

Wife: Carrie Condry

Children: Cass and Amy

Currently: Director, Center of Creative Church Leadership Development, Assistant Executive Director — Virginia Baptist General Board.

Pastorates: Served Churches — Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

Education: B.A., Oklahoma Baptist University; B.D. and PhD Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Denominational Work: Five years Leadership Consultant Baptist Sunday School Board. Twelve years taught Pastoral Leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Published fifteen books.

Honors: Listed in *Outstanding Young Men in South*, and *International Authors and Writers, Who’s Who*.

Editor's Note

Dear Church Family,

There is so much that goes on in a period of time you really don't know where to focus your attention. Sometimes, we all have the attitude of "someone else can do it better than I or, I don't have the time." Think about it. Most of the time we pass up these opportunities of service that are available to us or when things don't go exactly as planned, we seem to be the first to complain. This leads me to the statement I am going to make: **You are either part of the problem or part of the solution.**

Jesus Christ was placed on this earth to be the "Master Problem Solver." Wherever He went, He had a Christian solution for any problem He faced.

There are so many problems that face us as a Denomination. Think about all the times you have sat around and complained about what you *do not* like. There are designated times and places for us to voice our opinion and make a difference.

So if you ever decide you are only one person, so was Jesus Christ. Think of the difference He made.

**Don't become part of a bigger problem,
become part of a bigger solution.**

In His Service,

Juacy

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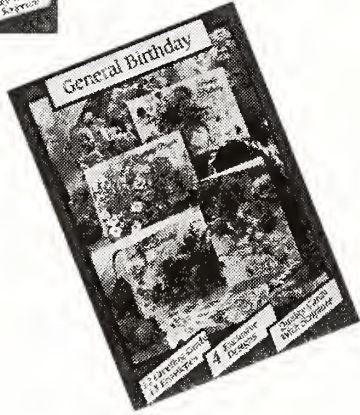
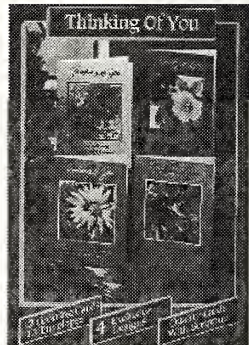
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The Free Will Baptist

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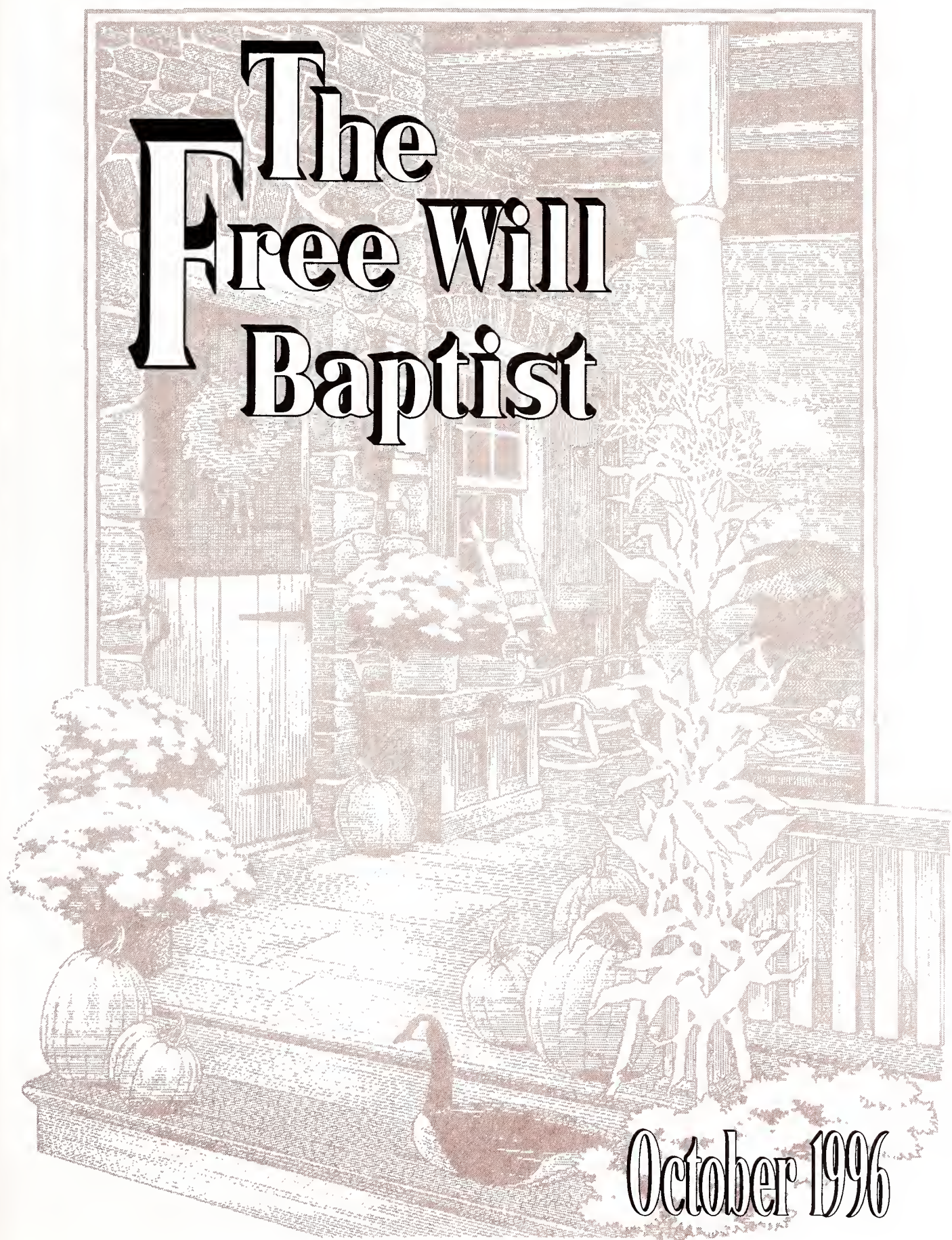
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The Free Will Baptist



October 1996

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NEXT MONTH

November is
Children's Home
Month

October is
Minister's Program
Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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R. Clifford Gray Jr., Executive Director

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and co-operation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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Denominational Ministries

— October is Minister's Program Month —

WHAT WE DO

Listed below is a brief description of our services and programs:

THE MINISTER'S RETIREMENT PROGRAM.

THE MINISTER'S WIDOWS FUND.

POST GRADUATE LOANS.

THE SURVIVING MINISTER'S FUND.

HARDSHIP GRANTS FOR MINISTERS IN NEED.

SEMINARS FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

PARTNER IN HEALTH COVERAGE.

THE CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM.

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.

For more information about Minister's Program contact:

The Rev. Don Fader

Post Office Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513

919-746-4963

Show your appreciation for your minister on October 13, 1996.

National Clergy Appreciation Day



FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

On August 17, 1996, members of Pleasant Hill Church visited the Children's Home. Gary Lee discussed the history, mission, and current programs of Home with the group. After his presentation, they toured the campus including a visit to Smith Cottage, where they met some of the children who are in the Preparation For Adult Living program. Following the tour, the group unloaded a U-Haul truck full of cleaning supplies for the Home. We want to thank everyone at Pleasant Hill for helping us meet our needs and for sharing in your Child Care ministry.



Pictured left to right: Rev. Harry Jones, Jr., Catherine Gaskins, Iona Briley, Dixie McLawhorn, Lonnie McLawhorn, Sandra Hulon, and Dessie Stanley.

Friends of Children Day will be held on November 23, 1996, at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The Day will begin with lunch and a program will follow. Dr. Burkette Raper will be the keynote speaker. The purpose of this appreciation day is to say Thank You to our Friends of Children sponsors. This day is a great way to meet other Friends of Children, tour our campus, enjoy good fellowship and learn more about your Children's Home ministry. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Friends of Children please attend or contact us.

WILL YOU BE A FRIEND?

*THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INVITES YOU AND YOUR GUESTS TO
OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON
FOR
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN APPRECIATION DAY
NOVEMBER 23, 1996
12:00 NOON
WHITLEY CENTER
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME*

Name _____

Phone _____

There will be _____ in my party for lunch.

RSVP by November 1, 1996
Send To: FWB Children's Home
Post Office Box 249 • Middlesex, North Carolina 27557

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP PHILIPPINES

by Rosana R. Briones

The Free Will Baptist Church Philippines conducted a Summer Youth Camp and Sportsfest last April 29–May 4, 1996. These events were held at Babuyan, Puerto Princesa City. The theme was “Equipping Youth for the Ministry of the Church” (Ephesians 4:12). There were ninety-five registered campers, including workers.

We were blessed by the following lecturers:

1. Pastor Teddy Martinez of Bethel FWB Church — “Youth Involvement in the Church”
2. Pastor Armando Manzano of Liwanag FWB Church — “Christian Maturity”
3. Sister Elsie Carpeso of Puerto Princesa FWB Church — “Personal Development”
4. Rev. Dario Basingil, Missions Director — “Responsibility”

The youth were encouraged to be committed to local church involvement.

We used the following schedule for camp: From 5 to 6 AM we had general devotions. All young people were required to attend. Lectures were held from 8 AM until 12 noon. The sport events were held from 1:30 PM until 5 PM.

There were participants from the South, Central, and Northern Districts. The Northern District had problems getting to the camp. Many were unable to attend because of bad weather. All passenger jeepneys and buses could not go up the mountain because of landslides. All transportation stopped at the foot of the mountain road. Then the passengers had to walk almost 2 kilometers to reach passenger jeepneys and buses on the other side of the landslide. It was hard for them to walk with their heavy bag-

FOREIGN MISSIONS

SHORT-TERM TEAM PROJECT COMPLETED

by Harold Jones

On August 24, Jarvis Mills, Donnie Paramore, Richard Glosson and myself traveled to Mexico to finish the parsonage at the Prince of Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Piedras Negras. This parsonage was a project of the Short-Term Team during June and July. All of these men were members of the June Team and had expressed a desire to see this project completed. The work that remained to be accomplished was trim work and painting. We worked long hours on Monday and Tuesday to complete the house. On Wednesday morning we had a short Dedication Service with Pastor Jose Angel Moncada and Family. They moved into the parsonage on Wednesday afternoon, August 28.

This was a most gratifying exercise. I personally want to thank every Short-Term Team member, everyone who prayed for the teams, and the churches that supplied the funds for this project. May God richly bless you for your love and concern for others.

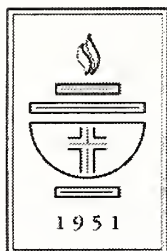
NOTE: The Short-Term Team will build a parsonage at the Lilly of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church in 1997. We need those who are skilled in construction to join the teams in June and July. Please make this a matter of prayer and let us hear from you SOON! Call the Board of Foreign Missions (919) 746-4963.



gage.

Those who were able to attend continued to praise the Lord for His protection and provision. Please pray for the workers and young

people, that they will commit themselves to full involvement in the ministry of the local church. May God receive the praise and glory for all that was accomplished.



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

1996 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DINNERS

ONslow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Tuesday, October 1, 7:00 PM. Folkstone FWB Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chairman. Goal: \$3,950

LENOIR COUNTY, Saturday, October 5, 7:00 PM, Kinston High School, Kinston, Jeff Daughtry, Chairman. Goal: \$21,500

JONES COUNTY, Monday, October 7, 7:00 PM, Pilgram's Home FWB Church, Dover, Mildred Jenkins, Chairperson. Goal: \$5,875

EDGEcombe COUNTY, Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 PM, Edgewood FWB Church near Macclesfield, Luther Bisette, Chairman. Goal: \$6,200

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Saturday, October 12, 7:00 PM, Beaufort County Community College, Washington, Billy Gurkin, Chairman. Goal: \$12,125

GREENE COUNTY, Monday, October 14, 7:00 PM, Greene County Middle School near Snow Hill, Randy Beaman and Genevieve M. Taylor, Co-Chairpersons. Goal: \$22,825

NASH COUNTY, Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 PM, Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chairman. Goal: \$9,700

PAMLICO COUNTY, Saturday, October 19, 6:00 PM, Camp Vandemere, Vandemere. Goal: \$7,600

WAYNE COUNTY, Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Tempie Jones and Joyce Edmundson, Co-Chairpersons. Goal: \$52,575

DUPLIN COUNTY, Saturday, November 2, 6:00 PM, Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphey Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chairman. Goal: \$13,000

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Monday, November 4, 7:00 PM, Spiritual Life Building, Everett Chapel FWB Church, Clayton, La Vern Carter, Chairperson. Goal: \$43,675

CARTERET COUNTY, Saturday, November 9, 6:00 PM, West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Noonan and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairpersons. Goal: \$14,300

CRAVEN COUNTY, Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 PM, West Craven Middle School near New Bern, Roy Wetherington, Chairman. Goal: \$19,400

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Thursday, November 14, 7:30 PM, Union Chapel FWB Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth, David Cahoon, Chairman. Goal: \$11,425

WILSON COUNTY, Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM, Beddingfield High School near Wilson, James B. Hunt and Betty Batts, Co-Chairpersons. Goal: \$35,050

PITT COUNTY, Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 PM, J. H. Rose Hight School, Greenville, Jane T. Tripp, Chairperson. Goal: \$31,150

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, November 21, 7:00 PM, Clinton-Sampson Agri-Civic Center, Clinton, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chairman. Goal: \$32,275

1996 TOTAL DINNER GOAL: \$342,625

**For More information
contact:
Jean F. Ackiss
Director of Church Support
at Mount Olive College
at
919-658-2502**

PAM WOOD, PROFESSOR OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

A college campus is a dynamic place. Students come and go every term. Faculty change. New developments occur in science, technology, art, and literature. Volumes are added to the shelves each year as the history of the church, the college, the county, the state, and the country marches on.

In these institutions are certain people behind the scenes watching, chronicling, working, serving, and keeping it all in order. They are the human infrastructure — the underpinning and the strength.

Mount Olive College is fortunate to have its share of faithful servants making up an infrastructure. Among this cadre is Ms. Pam Wood, Professor of Library Science, who has been serving the College for 26 years — and longer if you count her years as a student.

She graduated from Mount Olive in 1968 when it was a two-year college. She worked in the library as a student when it was located in the old school on Breazeale Street. She then went on to Appalachian State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1970.

By the time she returned to Mount Olive, Moyer Library had been built, and this has been where she has worked since then. Along the way, Ms. Wood earned a Master of Library Science from North Carolina Central University in Durham.

Ms. Wood's primary duty is cataloging — recording a new holding to the library so that users know it's in the library, what it's about, and where it can be found. A holding is a book, magazine, government document, manuscript, piece of music, microfilm, or compact disk. Since a huge amount of materials flow into a library virtually everyday, the task of cataloging is a daunting one.

And like most other jobs, Ms. Wood has a list of additional responsibilities, least of which include circulation and reference duties. Circulation duty involves assisting patrons as they take out and return materials. Reference duties involve steering patrons to materials they need, and in many cases, finding it for them.

"I worked in the library in high school and liked it," Ms. Wood said. "I decided that I wanted to be involved in education, but that I wasn't interested in teaching everyday." Working in a library filled the bill.

Perhaps the most significant change that Ms. Wood has witnessed over the years was the College's transition from a two-year school to a four-year school. Now, the tasks of accessing the World Wide Web and serving students in Mount Olive programs in New Bern and Wilmington are presenting new challenges for the library's staff.

"It's been a journey and a challenge to meet students'

needs as programs have changed," Ms. Wood said.

"Certainly, there has been physical change," she said. "Our holdings were very small and sparse compared to what you see now." She said that in 1990 the library achieved a major milestone when its holding topped 50,000. The library is now close to capacity, she said.

Among the more interesting holdings of Moyer Library are many documents relating to the history of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist, according to Ms. Wood. They include state convention minutes, conference minutes, church histories, files of many Free Will Baptist ministers, and commemorative plates from many churches.

In addition to being the College's library and repository for much of the church's history, Ms. Wood explained that Moyer Library is also a partial depository of the Federal Government. She said that this means the library collects "selected items" including the U.S. Code, the Federal Register, the Congressional Digest, certain data recorded by the Department of Labor, and census data.

Integrating the computer into the library is a challenge for Ms. Wood. It tops her list of "things to do."

"As a matter of necessity and as a personal goal, I am working to feel more comfortable with a computer," she said.

As far as addressing the librarian stereotype, Ms. Wood said that librarians come in all shapes and sizes with varied interests.

"If you are a librarian, people assume you read a lot," she said. "When, in fact reading is a very, very small part of my job." Ms. Wood said that she spends a majority of her time organizing materials and providing services to patrons.

And librarians *do have lives* beyond the book shelves.

When at home, she enjoys "doing things in the yard and crocheting," and, oh yes, reading!

She is also active the Southern Wayne County Business and Professional Woman's Club and several library associations. Although Ms. Wood resides in Mount Olive, she is a native of Four Oaks and a member of the Robert's Grove FWB Church near Dunn.

So, if you've been to Mount Olive College's Moyer Library any time lately, it is likely that Pam Wood helped you find what you were looking for. And if you, or a son or a daughter, goes to the library five years from now, it is likely that Pam Wood will be there to help.

When people talk about Mount Olive College being friendly helpful place where everybody is so nice, they're talking about Pam Wood and others like her who are there year in, year out serving others.

HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISMS



I'm a registered
**HARVEST
HELPER**

Date _____

**WHEN YOU CARRY A CARD LIKE THIS
YOU ARE TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME**

- ➔ Decide today to become a partner in PRAYER EVANGELISM (1 Timothy 2:1).
- ➔ By becoming a Harvest Helper you will be participating in one of the most rewarding ministries of our church.
- ➔ Join with other Original Free Will Baptists in praying at least (2) minutes a day (5) days a week for the ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism.
- ➔ By being a Harvest Helper you will be Expanding His Kingdom.

REGISTRATION FORM



HARVEST HELPER

YES, I will make a commitment to help *Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism* **TO TOUCH LIVES FOR A LIFETIME**, by praying at least two (2) minutes each day. (Mail to PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513)

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Conference _____

I understand that by making this covenant, I am becoming a **HARVEST HELPER**

Date

Signature

Due to the importance of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, to our Denomination, an allotted number of pages was held open for this article even though it was after the FWB Press scheduled deadline, of the 10th. This article will run in October's issue and concluded in November's.

PART I: MEMORIES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy A. McCoy, Editor of Free Will Baptist
Dr. Pepper Worthington, Writer-in-Residence, Mount Olive College

Rain pelted eastern North Carolina as Original Free Will Baptists drove across a landscape already wrenched from Fran's fury. Time seemed to be on hold with huge trees cracked, cotton crops soaked, corn bent, tobacco crushed. The drive to Mount Olive College for the Eighty-fourth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, September 10-12, 1996, is a memory and a reminder we are vulnerable creatures in an universe of wrath. Fran reminded us of our need for one another just as God's spirit reminds us how much we need faith in the love we have for one another as we experience a personal relationship with God.



The Rev. Ray Wells serves as President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Mr. Wells is pastor of Marsh Swamp Church, located in Rock Ridge, NC.

Remarks of the President of the Eighty-Fourth Annual Convention

"We question our dreams, our commitments," remarked the Rev. Ray Wells as he greeted delegates, visitors, and ministers to the Convention. "We question the way we are spending our time for that which we believe to be good and worthwhile. There is nothing in the Bible that says dreams or visions are free. John sat in a prison cell because he had talked about the dream of Christ."

Looking out over the Convention floor in College Hall, the Rev. Wells eyed the audience of more than 500 and declared, "Dreams are expensive. Winston Churchill told the British that their freedom would cost their nation blood, sweat, and tears — dreams cost. We today, however, believe our dreams or visions should become reality simply because we think God owes us something. We forget the price Jesus paid to see His dream come true. His dream took Him to places where the religious would not go. His dream took Him into situations where people refused to become

involved. His dream forced Him to get His hands dirty, His heart broken, and His security shattered.

Jesus taught us that we cannot have a vision or dream and be selfish. We cannot ask — 'What's in it for me?' or 'How much does it cost?' Jesus had a dream and His dream cost Him His life. What are we willing to pay to see the dream come true? Jesus had a dream and His dream cost Him His close friends, gave tears to His mother, initiated a celebration of religious leaders who saw Him as 'public enemy number one.' A dream costs."

The Rev. Wells paused, then proclaimed, "The dream will come true for us when we have faith the size of a grain of mustard seed, and when we are willing to sell all for the pearl of great price. When we are ready to put aside ourselves and put Christ in the center of our lives, then our dreams and visions will become *real*."

Executive Administrator's Report

"We want to help you to teach your people to be stewards,"

stressed the Rev. W. Scott Sowers. "God holds us accountable to use whatever God places in our hands wisely and appropriately," he added.

With intensity in his voice and eyes, the Rev. Sowers asked, "What does God want us to do and how can we do it most *effectively*? The Original Free Will Baptists experienced some growth last year. Praise the Lord. *We are not dying!* We are not the healthiest of specimens, but we are not dying. The most challenging aspect of my day-to-day work is now coming from churches looking for pastors. The churches looking for pastors tell me there are *none*. I'm a little confused. We have 400 ordained ministers and 249 churches. Why are our churches having a hard time finding pastors? If an ordained minister is not willing to do the work of the ministry, then why not turn your papers in? There are fellows who hold credentials who won't serve anywhere at anytime. If God has called you to minister, then find a place and minister. We pray to the Lord of Harvests. We encourage pastors to do their job.

A silence swept across College Hall.

Suddenly the Rev. Sowers held up a hammer. He waved it about as if he were about to begin work.

"I love the sound of a hammer!" the Rev. Sowers exclaimed. "On a clear day you can hear hammers driving nails. We are like the soul of nails being driven because we feel as though *we are doing something*. But what are we building? In our denomination we have a problem. Everybody is building a house, so to speak, with a bath, kitchen, living room, den. But we don't need that many kitchens. We need to come together as a *team* and build as a *team*. Our denomination has a resistance to teamwork. We should acknowledge each other and take

time to develop teamwork." He paused.

"Folks," he said as he held up his hammer, "I'm all for driving nails. Let's get a plan — God's plan — and build together."

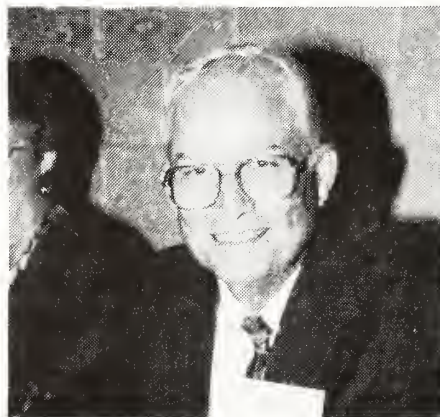
Again he held up his hammer. "Some say if something does not change in our denomination that we will not be here in 20 years. Let's forget that vision. Let's focus on where God wants us to go just as hard as we can. Then let us work as hard as we can to get there," he said.



The Rev. W. Scott Sowers serves as Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

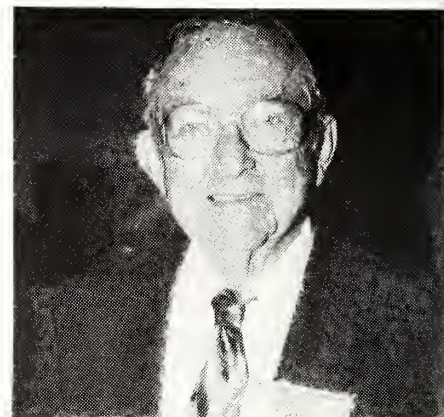
"God wants us to build together as a team," declared the Rev. Sowers. "God wants us to grow *eternally* and *externally*. God bless us as we meet here."

The Rev. Sowers recognized two important books being released at the Convention — Dr. Micheal R. Pelt's *A History of Original Free Will Baptists* and Dr. Floyd Cherry's *Original Free Will Baptist Believe*.



Dr. Michael R. Pelt autographs his

scholarly history, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, published by the Mount Olive College Press and endorsed by the Eighty-Fourth Convention.



Dr. Floyd Cherry holds up his editorial achievement, *Original Free Will Baptist Believe*, endorsed by the Eighty-Fourth Convention.

Nominating Committee Report

Dr. DeWayne Eakes brought to the Convention the Nominating Committee Report which offered names for Board members of the Denominational Ministries.

"We place these names in nomination to this Convention," moved Dr. Eakes. The floor was open for nominations for any position. No nominations were made from the floor and the following were approved by the Convention to serve on boards:

Convention Officers:

President — Ray Wells

Vice President — Leon Grubbs

Executive Committee:

Cape Fear Representative—

Fred Baker

Central Conference Representative—

Phil Wood

Eastern Conference Representative—

J. T. Wilson

Children's Home:

Ann Grubbs
Edward Brock
David Cahoon

Secretary of the Convention:

"Buddy" Sasser

Church Finance Association Representative:

I. Z. "Bud" Cobb

Cragmont Assembly Stock Representative:

Cheryl Williams
Jimmy Stocks

Foreign Missions:

Gary Bailey

FWB Press Foundation Representative:

Gary Burbage

Home Missions:

Peyton Lee

Minister's Program:

Robert B. Wilkerson

Mount Olive College:

De Wayne Eakes
C. B. Hinnant
W. C. Martin
Wendell Murphy
Jane Tripp
Kenneth "Deacon" Jones

Retirement Homes:

Frank Harrison
Jerry English

Board of Trustees:

John Mark Windley
Jack Weathersby

Chaplain's Commission:

Joe Ingram

Commission of OFWB College Student Fellowships:

David Hines

Historical Commission:

Michael Pelt

Layman's League Board:

Ralph Sullivan

Layman's League Board Cont.:

Elmer Harrell
Frank Parsons
Wayne Britt

Sunday School Board:

Bobby Foy
Paul Grubbs
Kathy Markuson



Dr. De Wayne Eakes presented the Nominating Committee Report to the Eighty-Fourth Convention.

PART II:

MEMORIES OF THE EIGHT-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy A McCoy, Editor of *Free Will Baptist*
Dr. Pepper Worthington, Writer-in-Residence, Mount Olive College

The Eighty-Fourth Annual Session of the Convention of Free Will Baptists, September 10-12, 1996, at Mount Olive College, came alive and overflowed with the presence of the Rev. Lowell Burress.

The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention, introduced the Rev. Burress. The Rev. Wells is pastor of Marsh Swamp Church, located in Rock Ridge, NC.

"The Rev. Lowell Burress has been involved in rural work for 30 years," said the Rev. Wells. "We are in for a blessing today with his message. Brother Burress made mention of the fact that he is from Indiana and that they play a little basketball there. We, in North Carolina realize how little that is."

Laughter erupted in College Hall. The mood was set for a message of energy, inspiration, and joy.



The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Eighty-Fourth Convention introduced the Rev. Lowell Burress.

Morning Worship: The Rev. Lowell Burruss on Worship

"I have made new friends in the Lord!" declared the Rev. Lowell Burruss, guest speaker for the message to the Convention on Wednesday morning during the worship service. The Rev. Burruss is pastor of Olive Branch Church of God, located in Roann, Indiana.

"The corn has been put down when the chickens could get it. The Word of God lives in true worship," he said.

Looking out over the delegation of more than 500 the Rev. Burruss asked, "If I would come to your church, would I know what you do in worship?" he asked. "Today we must examine *what worship is.*"

"We respond to God because of what we believe about worship. We need to recognize three things about worship: (1) we have to be aware that people have left the *battleground*; (2) we seek in the service to lead our people to the *holy ground*; (3) we seek to lead them higher and higher so that they ascend from *holy ground* to *higher ground.*"

The first reality of the experience of the *battleground* come alive as the Rev. Burruss talked of the need to perceive the worship experience as a release. "Worship is the moment God might be released through me," he explained. "God only intended for you and me to be a vehicle for Him to work through. We are not going to worship unless we have the Holy Spirit," he said.

"Amen. Amen," echoed the voices.

In preparing for the worship experience, the Rev. Burruss stressed the need to prepare the heart. "To live in truth, God wants us to be honest worshippers," he stressed.

"What does worship include?" he asked. "Worship should include

a time to sing, to sing who the Lord is and why we are here. Worship should include our voice of praise. Praise is a command and not a choice," he insisted. "Praise demands *I will* songs. You've got to get your will in line. *I will* enter His gates with thanksgiving. *I will* praise God for who He is. *I will* experience God's holiness. *I will* sing songs of life and the resurrection. *I will* sing of what Jesus did. *I will* sing songs that deal with the new life — the life more abundant. *I will* sing of God in a personal way. *I will* sing of my relationship to God and what God means to me. *I will* sing of my love for God," he exclaimed.

"Let me tell you," he continued. "People want God to be an object of faith and not be so personal. But God is the origin of every act," he declared.



The Rev. Lowell Burruss delivered the message to the Convention on Wednesday morning during the worship service. The Rev. Burruss is the pastor of Olive Branch Church of God, located in Roann, Indiana.

The Rev. Burruss stressed God as personal. He insisted that songs about a personal relationship to God should be sung.

"To reach the higher ground, we need to *make worship personal*. We need to focus more on our relationship to God and what God means to each of us. Worship is a cycle and we need to do something different each time. Prepare your people. Preachers get straight to the point and preach sermons that are Biblical. Let us move from the battleground to holy ground," he

concluded.

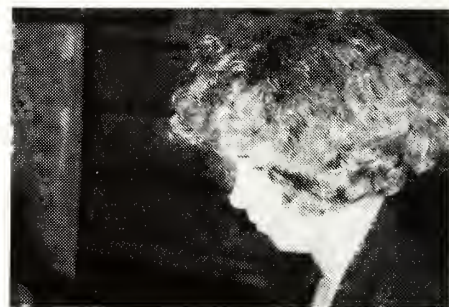
Music At The Convention

Mrs. Mary Dudley bravely gathered the practiced group of ministers to sing at the Convention. Pianist Mrs. Kathy Sherrod played while the ministers sang robustly, "Glorious Is Thy Name."

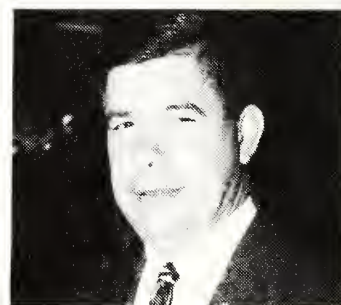
Both Mrs. Dudley and Mrs. Sherrod led the music during the Convention. Among the hymns chosen were "All Hail The Power," "Blest Be The Tie," "To The Work!," "To God Be The Glory," "Majesty," "Jesus Calls Us," and "Victory In Jesus."



Mrs. Mary Dudley led the Ministers choir at the Eighty-Fourth Convention.



Mrs. Kathy Sherrod was featured pianist at the Eighty-Fourth Convention.



The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood was the Worship Leader for the Wednesday Morning Worship Service.

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

Our summer has come and gone and the Lord has greatly blessed. We have seen souls saved as well as hearts revived. We have had a good summer and we would like to thank all who have made this possible.

Our pier, as well as new swimming pool were a blessing to the camp this summer. The crabbing has been good from the pier, and those who came to camp have enjoyed it very much. It is wide enough with high enough rails to walk on it without fear of falling in the water. Some people have a problem with walking on a pier if it isn't constructed with rails. Our campers also enjoyed the new trampoline and other recreational equipment this summer.

Our family lodge will continue to be open until Thanksgiving. It would make a good get away for a few days. Over looking the Bay River, it is a nice, quiet place to relax, think, and pray. If you would like to reserve the lodge, please contact our general manager.

The Lord blessed us with only a little damage from the hurricane. All our buildings are still intact. The board-walk that ran between the two buildings is sitting on the porch of the dorm. The snack building has been moved off its foundation about a foot but seems to be in good condition other than just being moved. Our pier had just a couple of boards torn loose, with a section of one side being pushed down just a little. We have had a lot of over-wash, with a lot of the rocks from the shore line being washed up, and some erosion. It appears that water came inside the building about six inches, leaving a wet muddy mess. The swimming pool is completely demolished. I am not sure if it can be saved or if it is beyond repair. It could have been much worse. We praise the Lord for blessing our camp.

I want to thank all the churches, auxiliaries, men's organizations and others who have been so good to Camp Vandemere. All of you have made this a good year spiritually and financially. If I tried to name all these I would probably forget someone so I'll just say thanks to all of you, and please continue to pray for the camp.

We have a need for a new mower for the camp. There are about seven acres to be mowed each week and our mower is beginning to wear out. With our present mower it takes about two days to get all the mowing done. This requires our manager to devote a large portion of his time to mowing. If we had a larger mower it would cut down on time as well as wear and tear on the mower. Some have suggested that we get something like a "Cub Cadet" or even a tractor with some type of mower to go with it. Perhaps you know where there is one that is in good condition and could be purchased at a fair price. Even better, maybe you have a tractor or large mower you would like to donate to the camp. Our Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Our manager team, Mr. Aldric Gaskins and his wife Julia Ann, have done an excellent job this summer. If you would like for them to tell you about their summer, invite them to your church, I am sure they would love to tell you all about Camp Vandemere. You may contact them by calling the camp 919-745-3171 or at his home 919-637-4949. Our new dietician, Ms. Annie Williams, has done an excellent job in our kitchen. The meals were delicious and we are looking forward to having her cook for us next year. We are very thankful for our staff who have worked so hard to make camp so successful.

Continue to remember the camp in your prayers and with your financial support. We are coming up on the months that are leanest for the camp. We are thankful to all of you for your support; you have made Camp Vandemere a successful-spiritual retreat for so many. May God bless you is our prayer.

Submitted by:
Rev. Owen Arthur

CAMP VANDEMERE DAY

Saturday, October 5, 1996 — 10:00 AM — 3:30 PM
Sandy Plains Original FWB Church

To all our Christian friends,

Greetings from all of us here at Camp Vandemere. We appreciate your prayerful support of the camp and its activities. We would like to extend to you an invitation to a special day for Camp Vandemere — Camp Vandemere Day.

In cooperation with the Third Union of the Eastern Conference, Sandy Plains is hosting a day with Camp Vandemere. The day will begin at 10:00 AM with the Union's scheduled session. Included, will be speakers giving highlights of the year's camp season.

After the morning session, hot dogs, drinks, chips, and other refreshing items will be sold with the proceeds going to Camp Vandemere. The fun continues with our third annual "Hoop It For Christ Basketball Tournament." If you have a team that would like to participate please fill out the form and return it to the person named below. Space is limited, so register early.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday October 5 for a day of wonderful fellowship. A special word of thanks to Sandy Plains Church and the Third Union for thinking of Camp Vandemere.

REGISTRATION FOR HOOP IT FOR CHRIST

(\$15 per team, payable that day)
Four on Four Basketball Tournament
Saturday, October 5, 1996
1:00 PM — 3:30 PM
Sandy Plains Original FWB Church

Church Name: _____ Pastor: _____

Team Coach (may be a player): _____

Phone: _____

Team Members

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

By listing your name above you agree to release both Camp Vandemere and Sandy Plains Church from any liability due to injuries received. You may send registration forms or address any questions you may have to:

Rev. Tim Heath
601 Turkey Point Road • Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

EVAN ROBERTS — A CHOSEN VESSEL

by Frank R. Harrison • Campus Minister • Mount Olive College

"The wind bloweth where it chooses, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth..." John 3:8.

In the study of the great revival movements of the past, it soon becomes evident that deep spiritual awakenings, whether in local churches or in whole countries, begin with desperate people like Hannah or David who seek the holy presence of a merciful God. Even so, God will answer prayers of desperate Christians — Christians who are tired and weary, cold and empty before God, whose mechanical services are but desperate rituals! Christians who are heartbroken over the deadness of the professing churches and over sinners going into eternity without Christ to be lost forever in the depths of hell become desperate and assault the throne of God in soul searching prayer. Even as they pray for God to open heaven and release the power of His mighty Spirit to revive, to heal, and to bring redemptive joy, it can be a humbling and soul searching experience as the Spirit searches the heart and exposes one's own sins. Yet every outpouring of the Spirit is preceded by earnest, agonizing intercession accompanied by a heart brokenness, confession and humiliation before God.

Evan J. Roberts (1878–1951) of Wales knew the price, the pain, and the great joy of seeing the Holy Spirit move upon a people and a country, for he became the vessel of God's grace and glory in the great revival that swept across Wales from September 1904 to June 1905. While many others persons played important roles in God's timing and plan that swept across Wales, Evan Roberts was a chosen instrument through whom God would accomplish a great ministry of revival and

harvest of souls.

Roberts was a miner's son at Loughor where he attended the Calvinistic Methodist Church called Moriah Church. At the age of twelve he went into the coal mines upon the sickness of his father and by 1902 began to do the work of a blacksmith. Soon, thereafter, he felt the call to preach and went to the academy at Newcastle in 1904 to prepare for ministerial training. During the spring of 1904, he had been repeatedly awakened from 1:00 AM to 5:00 AM by a sense of God's presence and communion with him, after which he would return to sleep.

For weeks and months Evan Roberts and some friends had been in agonizing prayer for Wales. At a prayer meeting near the end of September 1904, Evan Roberts prayed "Lord, bend me," upon which a deep sense of God's grace and the need to preach overwhelmed him. He drew out his meager savings from the bank and went home to Loughor to hold young peoples' meetings. There on October 31, 1904, Roberts held his first meeting and had three conversions. On Tuesday, six more souls were converted to Christ. On Wednesday he gave his famous "Four Points" sermon at Mount Pisgah Church near Loughor and more souls were saved. The four points became characteristic of his preaching style. The people were admonished to put away unconfessed sin, to give up doubtful habits, to obey the Spirit promptly, and to confess Christ publicly.

By the end of 1905, one hundred thousand persons were converted as Evan Roberts sought to obey the leading of the Holy Spirit and as people were fervently praying for revival. He was not the author of the Welsh Revival. The author of the Welsh Revival was none other than

the Holy Spirit of God in answer to the deep and sincere prayers of His people who were willing to wrestle with God as Jacob did until the blessing of revival came like a mighty flood across the dry and thirsty land. The fire of God burned in towns and villages which he did not visit. In many of the places which he did visit, he found the fire of revival already there and his visit was only to fan the flame. Prayer, praise in ecstatic singing, and testimony of converts was emphasized with some meetings going until two or three o'clock in the morning. His prayer continued to be "Bend me, O Lord" as he prayed for revival and was the very vessel God was using to bring it into existence.

Whole communities were shaken under the power of the Spirit as revival continued to spread throughout Wales. In some cases at 6:00 AM, people would be awakened by the sounds of the crowds going to the early morning prayer meeting. Entire town populations were being transformed into a praying multitude as people came to confess sin and turn to Christ for salvation.

Revival came to Wales in answer to prayer. It can and will come to the church and across America in answer to desperate and agonizing prayer. It will come when God's people really want a heaven-sent revival and are willing to pay God's price and meet His conditions as given to us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 — "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

Even so, Lord, let the wind of your mighty Spirit blow across our land and "bend us" to your gracious will. Amen.



October



L

Is Minister's Program Month

SUN	MON	TUE	
29	30	1 * MOC Dinner, Onslow County	2 *
6	7 * MOC Dinner, Jones County	8 * MOC Dinner, Edgecombe County	9 ★ All
13 Children's Day	14 * MOC Dinner, Greene County Columbus Day (Observed)	15 ○ Sunday School Board Meeting * MOC Dinner, Nash County * MOC Music in the Chapel Series, 7:30 PM	16 *
20	21	22	23
Mount Olive			
27 Daylight Savings Time Ends Set back 1 hour	28	29 * MOC Dinner, Wayne County	30

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

G E N D

ious/following month
ent month

- Sunday School
- ▲ Cragmont Assembly
- Foreign Missions
- + FWB Convention News
- + FWB Press Deadline

- ▼ Home Missions
- ◆ Layman's League
- * Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- * Woman's Auxiliary

	THU	FRI	SAT
n Auxiliary	3	4	5 * Pee Dee Auxiliary * MOC Dinner, Lenoir County
Conference, (Mt. Tabor)	10 * Albemarle Auxiliary, (Trinity)	11	12 * MOC Dinner, Beaufort County Columbus Day
ar Auxiliary	17 ★ Western Conference, (Milbournie)	18	19 * Piedmont Auxliary Pee Dee Association, (Macedonia) * MOC Dinner, Pamlico County
	24 ★ Eastern Conference	25	26 Dr. Raper's 50th Anniversary, Service and Reception 11:00 AM Mount Olive College
ge Fall Break			
	31	1	2 November 3s Children's Home Month

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

A Brief History of First Free Will Baptist Church Wilson, North Carolina

In the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, a group of interested men and women organized a church in a dwelling house on Moss Street, just across the street from Charles L. Coon High School Auditorium. Later that congregation moved to the Maplewood School Auditorium and later to the Mayor's Courtroom. The movement was led by the Rev. George W. Davis, who is credited with the founding the church.

On October 13, 1922, during the Twenty-sixth Annual Session of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists convening in Pine Level, North Carolina, a delegation of preachers, having previously been to Wilson to confer over the question of establishing a church in that city, agreed and reported that it is a proper place. With this favorable report, the Conference approval was granted and their strength and co-operation were pledged.

The following year, the Rev. N. D. Wiggs reported to the Conference that the work on the organization and a building were underway.

Construction of the church at its present location, the corner of Granger and Barnhill Streets, and facing Barnhill Street, was begun with the Rev. George W. Davis and D. R. Oliver as builders. God blessed this endeavor and on September 14, 1924, the first worship service was held in the new church.

In the Thirties, it was known as "The little church with a big welcome."

Temporary classrooms for the Sunday school were provided by reconstructing old army barracks on the north side of the church in 1950.

The first Educational Building including 12 classrooms, restrooms, and kitchen, and a Fellowship Hall was completed in 1954.

Later that year, a new project was begun — a sanctuary facing Granger Street. During the removal of the former Sanctuary and building the new one, church services were held in the Educational Building. The choir performed from the kitchen.

First services in the new Sanctuary were in December, 1957.

With continuous blessings, overcrowding became a problem, calling for more expansion. The second Educational Building was completed in May 1971, housing classrooms, offices, conference room, and restrooms.

Although building a physical church plant has been a necessity as we grew numerically, that has not been our main focus. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson has always been an evangelistic church, seeking to win souls for Christ. Many souls have been saved and received into the church upon their profession of faith in Christ and Christian baptism. Others have transferred from other churches. From a very small beginning of approximately 24 charter members, to 37 members as reported to the State Convention of The Free Will Baptists of North Carolina on September 12, 1923, we now have progressed to a membership of 841.

Our church is a working congregation, with various activities for every age group. Our youth organizations have progressed from monthly meetings under the leadership of volunteers to weekly meetings under the leadership of a Youth Minister, who is a part of the church staff. Volunteers continue to serve under his supervision.

We have a thriving Sunday school, Woman's Auxiliary, Men's Fellowship Outreach, and Senior Citizen's Fellowship.

Thirteen men from this church have answered the call of God into full-time Christian service and have been licensed and ordained into ministry by the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Others, not ordained, have committed their lives to Christian service.

We support all denominational ministries of the Original Free Will Baptists. In addition, we have been presented with a great opportunity to expand our horizons by holding an annual World Missions Conference and by supporting missionaries around the globe.

We see a need to face the challenges of the future. The first step is meeting these challenges was taken on May 2, 1993, by purchasing 10 acres of land at the intersection of Packhouse Road and NC Highway 58 North (West Nash Street), north of Wilson. On

December 7, 1994 an additional 6 acres were purchased. Our vision includes future relocation to that site.

With God's continued blessings, may we always be receptive to fulfilling the challenges He places before

us, and in serving Him in whatever way He leads.

As we are celebrating 75 years of God's blessings in ministry, we are also striving to serve Him faithfully until Jesus comes!!

Why Am I A Missionary?

by Al Markuson

Recently, I was asked the question "Why am I a Missionary?" On the surface it seems there should be a simple answer; yet, upon reflection it caused me to go a little deeper.

When I think back to 1967-68, I recall how God touched my life through a revival at Everett Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton. A home missionary revival team presented the gospel message. I realized my need to know Jesus Christ as my Saviour. The proper foundation had been laid by Sunday school teachers and others in the church. I believed on the Lord Jesus and received Him into my life. Soon followed baptism and involvement in my local church.

In the environment of a good church that offered many opportunities to learn of Christ and Christian service, God touched my life as a teenager to totally surrender my life then and in the future for His service. This I did and soon was licensed to preach in 1969. I believe simply that God had missionary service in His call for my life.

During the completion of high school, I had the opportunity to be a part of a summer missionary team. This opened my eyes and touched my life for the needs of cities and communities from Florida to Ohio.

As a ministerial student at Mount Olive College in 1973, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists asked me to serve at a new mission church in Hope Mills, NC, upon my ordination by the Western Conference. The call and commission of God was clear.

In 1975 the challenge of expanded service as a missionary evangelist was accepted. This time 1975-82 brought many experiences and preparation by the Lord for future ministry. All across America in revivals and evangelistic meetings, I was witness to God's changing of lives.

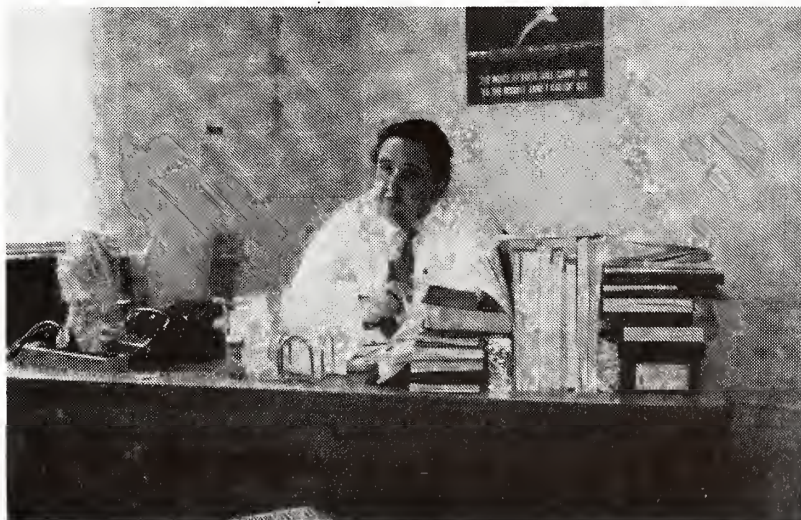
I met my wife in West Virginia. We were married in 1978. This brought a new dimension to ministry as now we were a ministry team.

Missions ministry continued 1983-88 as I served as pastor of Victory Church in Hope Mills and as President and board member of Faith Missions, Inc. (a home missions ministry based in Winston-Salem, NC).

God has continued to imprint missions in my life and service in His Kingdom. Since 1989 I have been serving as a missionary Director-Pastor for the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists.

There have been friends and family that have encouraged us to take advantage of other ministry opportunities in established churches. I believe since the beginning and continuing to today that God's constraining love and call keeps me on the missionary team.

Opportunities abound to touch lives for a lifetime. I think of the children, youth, and adults that are waiting to be won into the Kingdom of God. The call, commission, and challenge of God has never been clearer or stronger.



PASTOR NEEDED

Palmer Memorial FWB Church in Garner, NC is seeking a pastor. Any minister interested in applying is asked to call Glenn Dupree at 919-772-0136

Sidney FWB Church is searching for a full-time pastor.

If you are interested contact:

Mr. Edward Clayton
394 S. Savannah Road • Belhaven, NC 27810
919-964-4752

White Hill FWB Church is seeking a pastor.

If you are interested, contact:

Gary Jordan
PO Box 519 • Aurora, NC 27806
919-322-5615

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary is offering a study course on October 26, 1996 at Core Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Cove City. Registration will begin at 9:30. The session should last until around 11:00. No lunch will be served. A course on the Manual of Methods will be presented by the officers of the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee. Everyone is invited to attend.

Rose of Sharon FWB Church

will be having Revival October 7-11, 1996 • 7:30 pm
Speaker: The Rev. Joey Williams

PASTOR AVAILABLE

The Rev. L. Grady Tucker will be available for full-time or part-time pastoral service and or Revival services effective October 7, 1996. Contact :

Rev. Tucker - 919-633-0986 or
705 River Road • New Bern, NC

The Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez is available for full-time or part-time pastorate. Contact:

Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez - 919-934-4414 or
6410 Black Creek Road • Smithfield, NC 27577

Jerry E. Rowe is available for regular, supply, or interim pastorate within commuting distance from his residence in the Newport, NC area. Contact:

Jerry E. Rowe - 919-393-8890 or
138 Pearson Circle • Newport, NC 28570

Rev. A. B. Bryan is available for full, part-time, supply, interim or special services. Contact:

Rev. A. B. Bryan - 919-736-8996
231 Five Points Road • Dudley, NC 28333

Ordained Minister, Braxton Carter, is available for supply work, full-time or part-time pastoral work, fill pulpits for vacation or sickness, and/or youth minister positions. If interested contact

Braxton Carter
103 Alpine Way • Clayton, NC 27520
919-553-7246 (H) • 919-505-6105 (pager)

Open Arms Ministries Presents: Youth In Action

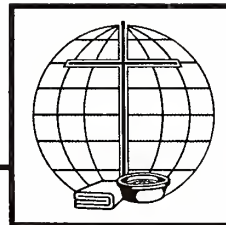
This will be a night of skits, drama, Christian commercials, and singing by various young people. Straight Up (UNPLUGGED) will perform a few songs and Glenn Mills will bring the Word of the Lord. This is an event young people will not want to miss.

Place: Rose Hill FWB (Ayden)

Date: October 26, 1996

Time: 7:00 PM

For more information Contact Glenn Mills 919-735-3916 or Leon Harris 919-746-4320.



The Morning Worship Service will begin at 10:30 AM. We will be blessed by a former pastor, the Rev. Fred Rivenbark as our Homecoming Speaker. There will be special music by former members and special surprises. A Memorial Service will also be conducted during this time. Following the service we will fellowship with an "old-fashioned" picnic lunch.

This Homecoming is notable because it will culminate the celebration of our 75 years. The opportunity to celebrate 75 years in the life of our church comes once in a lifetime. Please come and celebrate, worship, and fellowship with us on Sunday, October 13, 1996!

ANNUAL HOMECOMING AT SPRING HILL FWB CHURCH

The Annual Homecoming for Spring Hill FWB Church, 2127 US Highway 70 West, Goldsboro (Wayne County), will be held Sunday, October 6, 1996. The Homecoming theme will be: The Lord has done great things for us! We are glad! Psalm 126:3. The Sunday school lesson will be taught by Mrs. Alma Dale-Cox.

The morning message will be brought by the Reverend Clyde Cox, Pastor of Saint Mary's FWB Church, Kenly, NC. During the morning worship service, the church membership roll will be called and a memorial song will be rendered. Special music will be provided by the church choir and the Rev. and Mrs. Clyde Cox.

Sunday school will begin at 9:45 AM and the morning worship service will begin at 10:45 AM. Immediately after the morning worship service, lunch will be served in the fellowship hall.

All former pastors, former members, and friends are invited to attend and enjoy the day's activities.

Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church 1896-1996

*You Are Invited To A
Day of Worship and Celebration of
One Hundred Years
in God's Service*

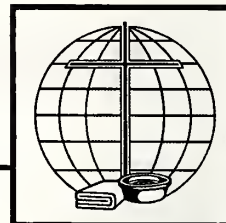
Sunday, October 13, 1996

*Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church
8000 Bear Grass Road
Bear Grass, North Carolina
Joey Williams, Pastor*

10:30 *Worship*
12:30 *Covered Dish Lunch*
2:00 *Time of Remembering (Video)*



*Song of Solomon 2:1
"I am the Rose of Sharon, and the lily
of the valleys"*



News from...

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Youth Work on Ski Trip

The youth at Christian Chapel had a car wash to help raise money for their ski trip. The car wash was well supported by our youth and adults. Following the car wash Freddie Howard treated everyone to pizza. The ski trip is now \$430.00 closer to being paid for.

Sunday Night Watermelon Cutting

Following the evening worship service, on August 25, everyone was invited to stay for a watermelon party. Many melons were consumed that night and everyone that stayed enjoyed them.

Surprise Birthday Party for Pastor

On August 28, the people who attend Wednesday night service got together and gave the Rev. Steve Hargrove a surprise birthday party. Everyone enjoyed the party and the Rev. Hargrove appreciated all the gifts and cards that he received.

Homemade Ice Cream for His Birthday!

Jerry Stroud's Sunday school class had homemade ice cream and cake for the pastor's birthday, on August 30, at the home of Durwood and Betty Anderson. Everyone had a great time.

Cape Fear Auxiliary Convention

Palmer Memorial FWB Church
October 9, 1996

Theme: "It is finished"

Scripture: *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished, and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*
John 19:30

9:00 Registration
9:30 Hymn "At Calvary"
Devotions Lucille Coats
Welcome Host Church
Response Linda Smith
Greetings President
Hymn "At the Cross"
Offering

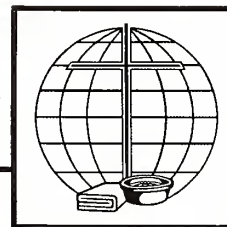
Business Session

Report of Denominational Ministries
Rev. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator
11:00 Life Membership Award
11:30 Hymn "The Old Rugged Cross"
Special Music Host Church
Convention Message Rev. Fred Baker
Closing Remarks
Hymn "I Gave My Life For Thee"
12:45 Benediction and Blessing
Lunch

If you know of
Happenings Throughout The Denomination
and would like others to know,
please send them to Tracy McCoy at
811 North Lee Street • PO Box 159
Ayden, North Carolina 28513

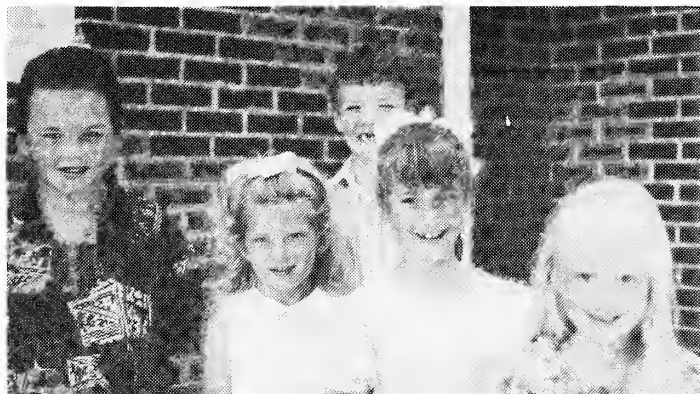
"It is Finished"

His pain and suffering was finished,
The prophecy of scripture was finished.
The payment of sin was finished.
The plan of salvation was finished.
The power of Satan was finished.



Youth News

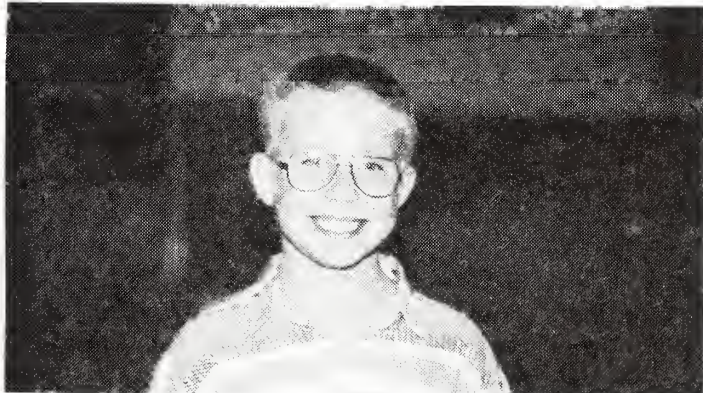
from April McPherson – Beaverdam AFC Reporter



The Beaverdam Cherubs participated in the group singing division of the State Youth Convention Talent Competition. They worked extra hard in the Pee Dee District because they tied with White Oak cherubs and had to have a run off. They proudly represented the Pee Dee at the convention and came home second place winners. Participants were Jordan McPherson, Alyssa Faulk, Lindsey McPherson, Allison Garrell, and in the background, Zac McPherson. This group was doubly excited when Allison Garrell (in group picture) won first place in the individual talent division.



Allison Garrell won first place in individual talent for the Pee Dee District and represented us well at the State Youth Convention.



DWayne Godwin won first place in the cherubs division of the Arts and Crafts Competition by submitting a sculpture depicting the "Straight and Narrow" paths to eternity.



Aubrey Cartrette, also of Beaverdam Cherubs won in Arts and Crafts in the wood-craft division for a model of Noah's Ark.



Beaverdam AFC represented the Pee Dee District in the Bible Bowl Competition. After several exciting rounds, these young ladies were victorious as first place state winners. We are proud of each of them. Pictured left to right are April McPherson, Macelyn Cartrette, Deanna Simmons, and Heather McPherson.



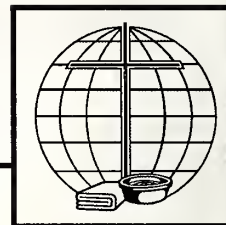
The YFA from Beaverdam competed against Charity Mission at the District Youth Rally for the opportunity to represent the Pee Dee at the State Youth Convention. These girls worked very hard preparing and it really paid off as they faced tough competition from first place winners, Reedy Branch. Members of the Beaverdam YFA team are: Jackie McPherson and Hollie Godwin (seated) and Mindy McPherson and Sharon Simmons. Thanks a lot, girls, for a job well done!

Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



Hurricane Fran

On Thursday evening, September 5, 1996, Eastern North Carolina was pounded by the hurricane-force winds of Fran. Although we had all been forewarned, no one was prepared for what happened overnight. It was only at the break of day that we began to really see what the forces of nature had done; it was only then that we could see the destruction she left along her wide path.

Almost everyone learned to cope without the conveniences to which we have become accustomed. Many homes were destroyed or severely damaged. Reports came in of destruction to some of our churches. Fran was no respecter of persons; whoever was in her path felt her fury.

While many neighborhoods looked like bombed-out war zones on Friday morning, by noon neighbors were helping neighbors recover from the damage. Those who had shared with those who did not have. The devastation was great, but the spirit of love present was greater.

I have paused to give God thanks for being with me during the storm. I trust that you have as well!

Family Day at Kings Dominion

The first annual Original Free Will Baptist Day at Kings Dominion was a whopping success! Well over 1,700 Free Will Baptists converged on the park that day. In fact, it was so crowded, park officials closed the park to new admissions late in the afternoon. Was it not nice to see those "Welcome North Carolina Free Will Baptists" signs at the entrances? You did see them, did you not?

If you were in line to see a show, there were Free Will Baptists nearby. If you were waiting to brave the adventure of some ride, there were other Free Will Baptists there, too. When it came time to eat, lots of folks you knew gathered with you in the pavilion area for the country buffet picnic. And when Michael W. Smith started to sing, it was obvious that Free Will

Baptist youth—and lots of those young at heart—were among the crowd.

We had a great day of fellowship and fun. Plans will soon begin for next year's event. (Pictures of some of the day's activities are found elsewhere in this issue of *The Free Will Baptist*.)

Annual Convention

By the time you read this column, the 84th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will be history. I would like to take a moment to say "Thank you!" to all of you who joined with us in prayer and preparation beforehand. I would also like to say "Thank you!" to all of those who helped us with the Convention. It takes a lot of work and a lot of people to accommodate the meeting of the Annual Session. Each individual—the and the role he or she plays—is truly important.

One major item presented at the Convention was the report of the Project Solution Task Force Committee. The report itself contains a lot of valuable information. It will take some time to digest what we have learned about ourselves by listening. I hope that you will take the time to study the report. C. H. Overman, chairman of Project Solution, and I will be glad to help you with any questions you might have relative to the report.

An important question relates to what we will do with the information. Obviously, some people and organizations are already responding. The Task Force Committee will be respon-

sible for suggesting a plan of action, which will be presented at the 1997 Session of the Convention. The committee has been expanded to include representation from each conference, each denominational ministry, the Woman's Auxiliary, and the Layman's League. The newly expanded committee will begin meeting early in 1997 to suggest a direction (vision) and strategic plan for our Convention.

Valuable Resources

Two important books were released at the Convention this year. Dr. Michael Pelt has completed *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*. The book is an extensive presentation of our denomination's history from the perspective of an insider. It is the most comprehensive presentation to date.

The second book was compiled by Dr. Floyd Cherry. The title, *Original Free Will Baptists Believe*, is descriptive of the writings of several leading men in our denomination. Each chapter focuses on one of the articles found in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

The books are available at the Free Will Baptist Press. Dr. Pelt's book may also be ordered directly from him or from the Convention Headquarters. Dr. Cherry's book is available at Carolina Bible Institute, too.

Upcoming Conferences

It is time for the annual meetings of conferences. The Piedmont Conference met on August 17 with East Rockingham Church. The other conferences will convene:

October 9	Albemarle	Mt. Tabor Church
October 17	Western	Milbournie Church
October 19	Pee Dee Association	Macedonia Church
October 24	Eastern	Trent Church
November 6	Cape Fear	Pleasant Grove Church
November 6	Central	Peace Church

SIGHTS FROM THE FWB DAY AT KINGS DOMINION

August 28, 1996



THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

BUT I FOUND NONE

by C.H. Overman

It's a strange dilemma! We live in an age of education and knowledge. Colleges and universities are bulging with what seems to be an excessive number of students. Seminaries are producing the most qualified clergymen of any previous generation. There are more PhDs and DDs than ever before. Why then is there a leadership crisis at a time when every possible facet of learning is available to us?

As difficult as it is to acknowledge, the crisis in leadership has taken its toll within our own denomination, both among the laity and clergy. While capable leadership has been evident in the growth of our denominational ministries in recent years, such has not been the case regarding numerical growth, with the exception of a few churches here and there.

The crisis in leadership, however, is not unique to our day. In the Old Testament days of the prophets we find that God "...sought for a man...that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me...but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30). How tragic it was that "none could be found!" The sins of the priests, princes, and prophets, as well as the sins of Jerusalem, had necessitated the call for a leader. The prophet Jeremiah, lamenting over Judah, also declared, "...there was no man..." (Jeremiah 4:25).

Several years ago I visited one of our local hospitals to see one of our elder ministers who was a patient there. This fellow minister and brother in the Lord had been my mentor during the early years of my ministry. As Paul was to Timothy, so he has been to me. In our conversation that day, the subject of leadership surfaced. I remarked that we simply do not have the type of leaders that we once had, or at least it seemed to me. He agreed and remarked that we had a few on the scene who had the potential to be, but whether they would become leaders was yet to be seen. This conversation has remained with me and has caused me to ponder the problem many times.

While we should be grateful for those who are providing leadership in their areas of service, and who are truly exemplifying true qualities of leadership, the number of those who are totally given to a cause, who are truly championing a cause, are on the decline.

This crisis in leadership is not limited to our own circumstances. Others attest to the problem also. Someone

recently remarked concerning the death of great leaders, "When you lose so many, who then is left?" Perhaps there are times when all of us feel that way. Think of those within our own ranks who paved the way in the fields of education, missions, child care, literature, care for the elderly, youth work, Sunday school, etc. These were leaders who dared to challenge; they were men and women of vision, filled with a love for God, His work, and a compassion for the needs of human kind. When Moses died, there was Joshua. When Elijah departed this world, there was Elisha. In reality, there are others whom God would direct into leadership roles. But where are they? Is God saying again, "I found no man?"

Dr. J. Oswald Sanders in his book, *Spiritual Leadership*, says that God often searches for a man of a certain type. Not men, but "a man." Not a group, but an individual. He not only chooses men, but certain types of certain tasks.

Dr. Sanders also writes: "Both Scripture and the history of Israel and the church attest that when God does discover a man who conforms to His spiritual requirements, who is willing to pay the full price of discipleship, He uses him to the limit, despite his patent shortcomings. Such men were Moses, Gideon, David, Martin Luther, John Wesley, and thousands of others...Spiritual leadership is a thing of the Spirit and is conferred by God alone. When His searching eye alights on a man who is qualified, He anoints him with His Spirit and separates him to his distinctive ministry (see Acts 9:17; 22:21)."

How does one feel who is thus chosen of God to a position or place of leadership? Perhaps the best way to describe it is found in the word, "unworthy." The urge to refuse the calling, or to reject it is often strong, even to the extent of running away which is simply saying no to the call of God to a place of leadership.

William E. Sangster, a great leader of the Methodist Church in England, when convicted that God wanted to use him, said, "Bewildered and unbelieving, I hear the voice of God say to me: 'I want to sound the note through you.' O God, did ever an apostle shrink from his task more? I dare not say 'No' but, like Jonah, I would fain run away."

If the crisis in leadership is to be met, it will be the result of a response to the leadership of God's Spirit. This

relates to both clergy and laity, both men and women, both young and old. It is a matter of personal commitment and surrender to His divine will and purpose. There is no place for divided loyalties and entanglements with the world. A stalemate is not of God's design. His plan is for growth, for advancement. We have His marching orders. It is simply "onward, ever onward." Who is willing to "fill the gap?" Is there a man/woman to be found?

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

C.H. Overman

Born: Wayne County, NC

Home Church: Union Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church

Education: Atlantic Christian College, (Barton)

Denominational Work: Editor of the Free Will Baptist Press. Secretary of the NC State Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists. Clerk of the Central Conference of OFWB. Member of the Central Conference Ordaining Council. Pastor of Ayden Original FWB Church. Former Executive Administrator of the Convention of OFWB. Ordained Minister for 40 years, serving in several pastorates. Presently at Sound Side FWB Church, Columbia, NC.

Other Work: Public School Teacher (20 years service)

Wife: Ruby Nichols

Children: Hal, Jeanne, Jeff, Tina

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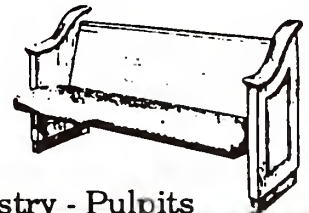
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AFTER THE STORM — A STILL SMALL VOICE

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"...a great and strong wind rent the mountains...but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice,"
(1 Kings 19:11-12).

Some Lessons From Hurricane Fran

Those who were in the path of Hurricane Fran will remember the night of September 5 for a lifetime. With devastating winds up to 115 miles per hour, the eye of Fran reached shore about 9:00 PM and before dawn one million people in eastern North Carolina were in darkness.

When the sun rose, most of us were stunned with the vast destruction that lay in our yards, streets and throughout the countryside. Almost no home was spared damage; thousands were left uninhabitable; uprooted and broken trees lay everywhere. Streets and roads were blocked, grocery stores and gasoline stations could not open, everything dependent upon electricity was inoperable, and many people were without telephone service. The destruction of crops left farmers devastated.

Conditions were particularly hard for senior citizens, many of whom were in apartments without proper ventilation, and as the hot days went by the food in their refrigerators became unsafe for consumption.

Fran is gone now, but after the storm, we, like the Prophet Elijah, can hear a "still small voice."

There Are Some Things In Life Beyond Our Control

We knew for days that the hurricane was coming. Although her sweep across the Atlantic was monitored with precision and we were updated daily on her location, velocity, and direction, we were helpless to thwart her movement or alter her course.

From out of the storm, there is a still small voice that tells us that, as much as we would like to be, we are not the master of the universe — there is something in this world that is bigger and stronger than we are.

Life That Rests Primarily Upon Technology Is Fragile

Many senior citizens can remember when electric lights, refrigeration, ice for meals, and telephones were the exception rather than a part of our normal lifestyle. They can also remember when the best way people knew to preserve fresh meat, milk, and butter in hot weather was to lower these items into wells. Indeed, the home and commercial use of electricity is a relatively new phenomenon in human history.

In large measure, what we lost during the storm were luxuries that earlier generations never knew. For a few days, Hurricane Fran brought us back closer to nature and reminded us how dependent we have become upon modern technology. Now, after the storm, we can hear a still small voice warning us that the quality of life which rests primarily upon technology is fragile.

In All Things God Is With Us

When we face situations in life beyond our control, when our lives are in peril, and when our knowledge and technology are inadequate to save us, what do we do? It is to this condition in human life that the Bible and the Christian faith speak softly but clearly.

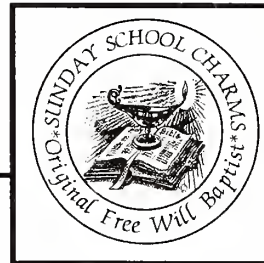
The Prophet Elijah fled for his life from the threat of Queen Jezebel by taking a forty-day journey across the desert. His flight brought him to Mount Horeb where he heard the voice of God.

There on the mountain, Elijah experienced a wind strong enough to break the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind; the wind was followed by an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake, there was a fire, but God was not in the fire; "and after the fire a still small voice."

The Christian faith assures us that in all the storms of life, we are not alone. When we stand helpless of danger or when we are confronted with a disease for which science knows no cure, there is a still small voice that whispers: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The voice tells us that we can be still and know that He is God, (Psalm 46).

On the third night after the storm, at bedtime I blew out the candle, and at that moment the lights came on. Immediately, I thought of the words of an unknown author: "Death is not extinguishing the light, but putting out the lamp because the dawn has come." The still small voice had spoken!

1996 (Vol. 1. No. 11) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



What Sunday School Needs Most is LEADERSHIP!

by Kipling Godwin

Much has been written recently about the need for leadership, especially in terms of what the private sector calls *Servant-Leadership*. While the secular world would lead you to believe Servant-Leadership is a new, innovative approach to leadership, we know it is as old as the Bible itself. In fact, it is just the kind of leadership that the Greatest Servant-Leader of all times, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, spoke of in Matthew 23:11: "...he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

Every group or organization seems to be looking for excited, enthusiastic, dedicated people to provide leadership and vision. Leadership within the church is no less important today than it was in the days when Jesus chose the twelve disciples to help fulfill His ministry. Leadership can come in all forms and at all levels of ministry. The pastor, superintendent, Sunday school teacher, choir director, youth leader, and every member of the laity must provide leadership in some way.

• *Superintendent/Leader*

What the pastor is to the entire church, the superintendent is to the Sunday school. Given the fact that Sunday school tends to be the largest ministry of most churches, the role of superintendent carries with it a tremendous responsibility. A good superintendent, along with the help of the pastor, must be able to create a shared vision of what is to be accomplished within the Sunday school ministry — "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Once a shared vision is realized, the superintendent simply rallies the workers together in a well-organized, systematic pursuit of the vision.

• *Teacher/Leader*

The work of Sunday school, even in a small church, cannot be effectively accomplished by one person. Everyone involved in Sunday school, especially the teachers, must be totally committed to the ministry if it is to be successful. The role of Sunday school teacher is a week long, day-in and day-out job that requires hours of study, meditation, and prayer. Anything that can be done to make the responsibility more exciting and fun

for the Sunday school teachers during the week will tend to increase the participation of the learners/followers on Sunday morning. For example, you may try organizing a study group for Sunday school teachers one evening during the week. Ask one teacher to teach the adult Sunday school lesson, while the others prepare questions and points of discussion. Spend a little time talking about innovative teaching techniques and ideas to involve the learners/followers in the lesson. In the end, all the teachers, not just the one who taught the study group lesson, are better prepared to teach on Sunday morning.

• *Learners/Followers*

Every young Christian born into the kingdom of God must start somewhere. For most of us, that beginning was in Sunday school where we were fed the milk of God's Word by a faithful and caring teacher. Over time, we grew in the faith and today we are better able to take on some responsibility for continuing the work of the church. However, no good servant-leader ever really stops being a learner/follower. Since we are not, by any means, the first Christians on earth, there is always someone who is older and wiser in the faith than we and thus an invaluable source of knowledge. In other words, even the greatest servant-leader needs to look to others with more experience for advice and guidance on how to lead.

It is no easy task to provide leadership for any organization or task. Sunday school leadership is no different! Trying to lead a Sunday school (for the superintendent) or a class (for the teacher) always seems to lead to "discord among the brotherhood." Sometimes feelings are easily hurt, people are offended by new ideas, turned off when they are not involved in decision-making, and critical when everything doesn't go their way. There seems to be no way humanly possible to avoid discontentment. But, what may not be humanly possible is possible with God through Jesus Christ. In fact, Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." — and that means even leading a Sunday school without feelings

of discontentment. In order for us "to do all things," however, there are a few expectations God has of us.

• *Keys to Effective Servant-Leadership*

Pray for Wisdom — King Solomon was perhaps one of the greatest servant-leaders to ever live. At least part of the reason that this is true is that he, when granted a request of God, asked for wisdom. God was faithful to grant his request and, in fact, the Bible says that there was never one before and has not been since anyone greater (and wiser) than Solomon. James 1:5 the same promise of wisdom to us as Christians, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God,... grants God, that giveth to all men liberally...and it shall be given him." Solomon understood that value of wisdom in dealing with people (1 Kings 3:9) and we must as well if we are to be effective servant-leaders.

Seek God's Will — Ask God to direct you according to His will. Evaluate your goals and objectives to make sure they match with God's direction for your church and Sunday school. The goal of His ministry has not changed — to win lost souls to the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. How you seek to accomplish this mission may be different from how others accomplish it. It is your responsibility as the servant-leader to seek God's direction in your life and in your work in His ministry.

Build a Team of Workers — "The harvest is truly plentiful, but the workers are few." One of the greatest challenges for a pastor or superintendent is to recruit enthusiastic workers into the Sunday school ministry. You might try organizing a Christian Education Committee and/or a Sunday school council to assist in planning and directing the work of the Sunday school including teacher recruiting, training, and evaluation. The main objective is to involve as many workers as possible — each with their own talents and abilities. God is blessed by the labors of a faithful servant, even if we (unfairly) consider the task to be small.

Evaluate Your Effort — There comes a time in any process when you must stop and take stock of where you are, where you have been, and where you are going. You should schedule a time to critique the effectiveness of the Sunday school. A periodic evaluation of your efforts will help you to re-focus on your goals and objectives and will strengthen the commitment of everyone involved.

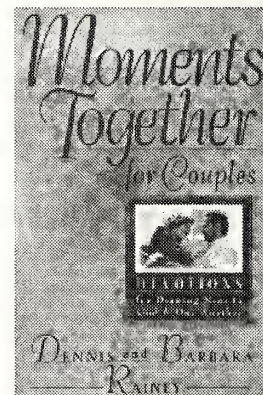
Kipling Godwin represents the Pee Dee Association on the State Sunday School Board. He is an assistant Sunday school teacher and Superintendent of Beaverdam OFWB Church near Chadbourn, NC. With an average attendance of 384, Beaverdam is the largest Sunday school in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Devotional Books



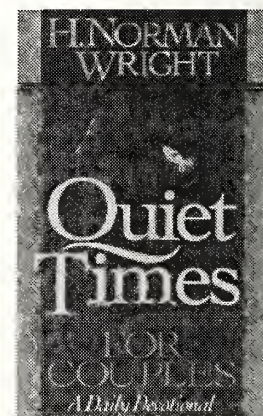
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Editor's Note

Dear Church Family,

Psalm 103:17 says: But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

God's power and strength have been very evident the past few months. If you have to ask what I am talking about, I'll give you two names: Bertha and Fran. Two different storms in which everyone received some form of damage due to their strength.

Regardless of the amount of damage, don't we have a lot to be thankful for? We all survived! This was not permanent devastation. We can pick up the pieces, rebuild, and move on.

God's grace pulled us through this, He can pull us through anything. Think of God as the eye of the storm. The eye is the calmest part of a hurricane. It prepares us for what is yet to happen.

God's love wraps around us, calms our fears and lets us know, with Him, we can pull through any situation.

Until next time, look for the eye of the storm!

In His Service,

Tracy

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The Free Will Baptist

NOVEMBER 1996

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NEXT MONTH

December Is
Foreign Missions
Month

November Is
Children's Home
Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and co-operation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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All subscriptions are payable in advance: one year, \$10.07; two years, \$18.55; four years, \$36.04 (including sales tax for North Carolina residents); residents of other states, \$9.50, \$17.50, and \$34, respectively (plus sales tax where it applies). **Every-Family Plan:** A 25 percent discount given when local churches send *The Free Will Baptist* to the home of every member; names and addresses to be provided by churches. Churches are billed quarterly. **Bundle Plan:** Lots of 25 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these. A 50 percent discount is offered under this plan.

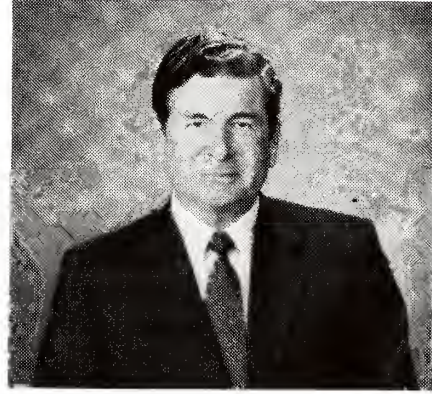
Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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Denominational Ministries

Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Friends of Children Day will be held on November 23, 1996, at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The Day will begin with lunch and a program will follow. Dr. Burkette Raper will be the keynote speaker. The purpose of this appreciation day is to say **THANK YOU** to our Friends of Children sponsors. There will be special music by current residents at the Home. This day is a great way to meet other Friends of Children, tour our campus, enjoy good fellowship and learn more about your Children's Home ministry. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Friend of Children please attend or contact us.



Dr. Burkette Raper
Friends of Children Day Speaker

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There will be _____ in my party for lunch.

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November is Children's Home Month

From...

Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Dear Free Will Baptist Staff:

I am writing to you to thank you for your love and understanding during my stay. I appreciate everything you have done for me. It means a lot to me to know I have people who love and care about me without condition. I use to think I was a child waiting for someone to come along who loved me. Most of all, I want you to know I don't want to leave here, but my mom needs me now and I have to be there for her. I know she didn't have to have me, and she had options, like abortion or adoption, but she chose to go ahead and have me, so now it's my turn to take care of her needs.

I am going to miss each of you. I will never forget what you've done for me during my time at the FWB Children's Home. You have changed my life for the better, and I am grateful to you. Some kids haven't realized yet how much they have to be thankful for and how lucky they are to have someone to love and care for them, but I am sure one day they will see just how fortunate they really are.

I can remember a time I was taking everyone for granted and only concerned with making myself first, but then one day I realized if I continued to do the things I had been doing, I was only going to be hurting myself, and making things harder for myself. I feel I learned a very important lesson during this time, and I feel like I will always remember what I have learned.

I had some good times and some bad times, but the good outweighed the bad and my memories here will always be with me in my heart. One thing I have realized is JESUS loves me and the staff here loves me too.

I know sometimes your job gets really tough, especially when you think no one appreciates your efforts to help, but I know in my heart even though they may not say so, every kid appreciates the things you do for them.

Once again, I want to thank you for being here for me during some tough times in my life, and for caring for me through it all. I will cherish my last few days in my heart forever. I wish each of you and your families a very special CHRISTMAS and a great NEW YEAR.

I LOVE YOU ALL,
LISA

The above letter was written by Lisa, a fifteen-year-old resident at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home just before she left our care. We are proud of her and what she accomplished while she was in our care. You too can help share in a child's life by helping us provide for them during Christmas. You can help our children by becoming a Christmas Sponsor. Christmas Sponsors are important to our children, because it is such a tender time when love speaks so clearly through sharing. Every year we try to provide sponsors for the children in our care. Sponsors simply send \$100 for each child sponsorship. We need to receive Christmas Sponsorships as soon as possible to allow us time to complete our shopping. Won't you consider adding our special children to your Christmas list? If you would like to be a part of our sponsorship program send the Sponsorship Form and your \$100 contribution to: **The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Post Office Box 249, Middlesex, North Carolina 27557.**

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THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS



Picture 1 — Our newly painted church; picture 2 — Worship service; picture 3 — Children's message during worship; picture 4 — T. C. Tree, Canary Island Palm planted in memory of the Rev. T. C. Farmer; center picture — private baptism, for Kris and Don Beltz

Greetings from your mission work in Saint Cloud, Florida. It is taking some adjustments to get used to this climate. The weather is a bit different here as compared to the weather back home. So far, thank the Lord, we have had no real sickness to report to you. Our family is staying very healthy and for that we are extremely grateful. GOD is truly blessing and we are humbled.

It is a pleasure to report to you that things are proceeding very nicely here. It seems as though time is really slipping away so quickly. I can hardly believe that this is an eight-month report, but it is. During our first month here, we witnessed two baptisms, praise the Lord! Since that first month, there have been six more souls won to the Lord and baptized! We now have fifteen active members and are averaging twenty-six at our worship services.

Our congregation has really been busy during these past few months. Much renovation has transpired, new carpet has been laid in the Sunday school rooms, exterior of the building has been painted, and we are replacing some siding which has deteriorated. A new sign has been purchased and erected. Lighting for the sign as well as for a cross placed on the front of our building has been installed. The cross was handmade by one of our new members, Mr. Don Beltz. Due to the collapsing condition of the old ramp leading into our sanctuary, a new ramp has been constructed with treated lumber. The new ramp was designed and built by Mr. Don Beltz, Mr. Brad Guthman, Mr. Rodney Raulerson, Mr. Charles Williamson, and the Rev. Aubrey Williamson. It has been enjoyed by our new member Mr. Kevin Williams who is confined to a wheelchair. Speakers donated by the Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church were installed in the sanctuary. Now our electronic organ really sounds marvelous (also donated by Marsh Swamp Church). Members and visitors alike have been chipping in and keeping the Mission's

The First Eight Months Cont....

lawn manicured and the interior clean.

Work is not all that has been going on here. Many activities are going on as well. In addition to baptisms we've also enjoyed an Ice Cream Social, Easter Egg Hunt, Youth Encampment, tree planting and memorial service for T. C. Farmer, and a Gospel Sing featuring Mr. Ken Lee from Kinston, NC. Our Mission has designated October as Attendance Drive Month. Our YFA is planning a Rock-a-thon for November.

The following training programs have been offered: The Aim Program and Doctrine, Belief and Polity of Original Free Will Baptists. Evangelism strategies have also been shared.

Our Mission's services are as follows: Sunday school at 10:00 AM, Morning Worship at 11:00 AM (during our worship time we have Children's church and a nursery is provided for our four-year-old and under children) and Wednesday evening service at 7:30 PM. You are welcome to join us for service anytime your are in the area.

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism voted in August of this year to approve a name change for our Mission. Our new name is Old Canoe Creek Church Member of The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It is hoped that this will create a warmer sense of welcome in our community.

Please continue to pray for us as we try to build God's Kingdom here in Saint Cloud, Florida. Your faithful support means so much to this ministry.



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CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The Boy Scouts of America has launched a new National Crime Prevention Program for its four million youth members and two million adult volunteers. Local council kickoffs are scheduled for October during National Crime Prevention Month.

The program has four components: youth, family, community, and unit — each with its own role in the program and suggested activities.

- **Youth.** Youth participants can learn how to settle arguments with words, not weapons; how to report crime; and how to get involved in making neighborhoods safe. Boy Scouts can earn the new Crime Prevention merit badge and Cub Scouts are eligible to earn recognitions for activities and achievements.
- **Family.** Working with their parents, participants can discuss crime prevention topics and demonstrate basic safety and crime prevention techniques.
- **Community.** The program will stress collaboration with national, state, and local law enforcement organizations. For example, units and individuals can help set up neighborhood crime watches, and organize McGruff programs for children in elementary school.
- **Unit.** Units can host parents' nights, contact local law enforcement agencies or other organizations involved in crime prevention, conduct safety seminars, monitor youth participation and completion of crime prevention projects, and order and distribute appropriate recognitions.

The Crime Prevention Program will be administered through BSA local councils and used by millions of youth. The program provides excellent outreach to youth who are not involved in Scouting, and thereby extends its impact to more than a million additional participants. Crime prevention recognitions include a patch, certificate, pocket card, and pin.

The BSA's National Crime Prevention Program is supported by the National Crime Prevention Council in Washington, DC, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the US Office of National Drug Control Policy.

For more information, contact your Scouting Commission of Original Free Will Baptists, 919-746-4963 or write to PO Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513.

MY SHORT-TERM EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO

by Julie Cox

My name is Julie Paige Cox and I am 13 years old. I would like to share with you a little of a blessing that I have recently received. This past July (14-23), I went to a wonderful place called Mexico. I went with 21 members on a Short-Term Team. (This was the third team to go to Mexico in the past two years.) This was through the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions. It was headed up by Harold Jones, the Director of the Board of Foreign Missions, and his wife, Sandra. We had three translators with us, Becky Huerta, Lucy Timmons, and Edmundo Gonzalez. We also had others in our group who had been on the mission field before.

We were scheduled to leave on July 13, but due to Hurricane Bertha, we were delayed a day. We flew down on the 14th and went to the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, where the Rev. John Hagee pastors. After the excellent service, we were able to meet John Hagee and talk to different officials at his church. We also went to the Alamo. That night, we headed into Mexico to start our work of ministering to the people there. In the days to come, we were going to meet several Mexican ministers, their wives, and all of the people of the churches. We stayed at a motel in Piedras Negras, Mexico.

In the mornings, the women, the girls, and the youth minister taught Bible School at several churches. At lunch, the women of the particular church where we were, fed us lunch. After lunch, Mrs. Linda Baker taught the Women's Class. We had crafts for all ages during their classes. The men and boys were up early in the mornings and all day



long working on the parsonage that we were building for a Mexican minister and his family of nine children. Later in the afternoons, we would all meet back together and go to night service at a different church every night. The services were usually about two hours long. We sang, clapped our hands, had a message, and fellowshiped with the Mexican people. On the Monday before we went home, we took a day of relaxation. We also were able to go down to the market and bargain. That was very interesting. There were many items for sale.

While in Mexico, we made many friends. Not only amongst ourselves, but with the Mexican people. They have an overwhelming and great sense of hospitality which was recognized on many occasions. One, for instance, was when we went to Rosita. We had our normal routine during the day, but split up into smaller groups and stayed in several different Mexican homes. The Mexican people wanted us to have the best that they had, and that's what they gave us. In our closing services, we realized just how great their

emotions were for us. For the girls who had helped in the Bible School, they made a handmade picture frame and took our pictures to put in them. For the men, they sawed shapes out of wood and painted them. We also had a birthday person with us, whom they sang to and gave a beautiful gift.

Altogether, I feel that we went to be a blessing, but we received a much greater one. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to have such a wonderful experience and a safe trip. I pray that we were able to touch someone with what we did. I hope what I have shared with you today, will give you a little bit of what being a Short-Termer is. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

AN EXCITING MISSION RALLY

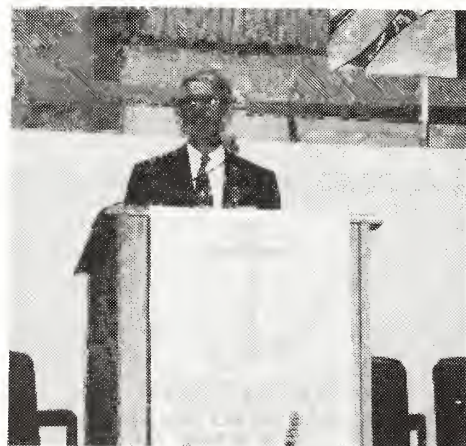
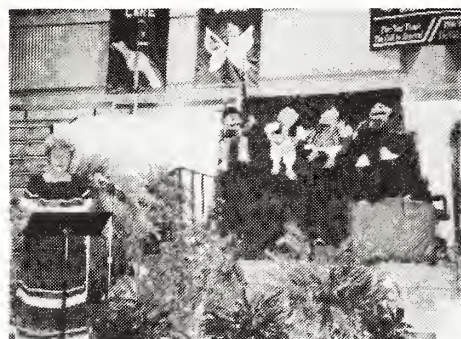
by Harold Jones

The Board of Foreign Missions was in charge of the 1996 Missions Rally held in connection with the Annual Convention. The program centered on the Short-Term Teams that have ministered in Mexico. There were Spanish songs, a puppet skit and testimonies from several team members about how God worked in their lives through this experience. The Rev. Antonio Escobar, Field Director in Mexico, delivered a touching message based on his personal testimony. At the conclusion of the service, all ministers and deacons were requested to come to the front to pray for Bro. Escobar. He has a serious infection in this right knee. He was anointed

FOREIGN MISSIONS

AN EXCITING MISSION RALLY Cont....

with oil and fervent prayer was offered on his behalf. On Thursday, September 12, he visited Dr. Don Ribeiro in Ayden. (Dr. Ribeiro saw Brother Escobar in Mexico and urged the Board to bring him to North Carolina for medical treatment). After examining him in his office, he sent Brother Escobar to a specialist in Greenville. The opinion of the specialist was that since it was an old wound, medically there was no treatment that would help improve his condition. He will be on antibiotics on a rotational basis, but he needs a miracle from God. Prayer was begun on September 12 at the Rally for his healing. I urge you to pray for him daily. God is able!



FEAR

by Willem van der Plas

We arrived here in the winter of 1991 and I remember the faces of the people in the streets. Nobody smiled; their clothes looked shabby, grey and black. The shops were almost empty, we stood for hours in the snow waiting for bread. Older people were searching in trash-containers for something to eat.

In 1992-93 the situation became a little better. Imports from the West made life bearable, however the prices were high and many people could not afford the luxuries of coffee, butter, and new clothes.

In 1993 tourism started to bloom. Many people from Western Europe came to the ski slopes in the winter and enjoyed the beautiful weather and the Black Sea beaches in the summer.

With the influences out of the West, came the interest of the youth from this country for sects, cults, hard rock-music and discos. The result was a lot of confusion, unrest and criminality.

Stolen cars from the West found a great market in the East. Young people could not find decent jobs and found their way in a rapidly growing Mafia. Drug traffic increased, anarchism was visible in the cities.

The year, 1996, has become disastrous for the people as the national currency, the lev, was devalued dramatically. Every-day food like bread and potatoes are ten times more expensive than one year ago.

There is fear for the coming winter. Electricity will be less available. Wood and coal are too expensive. Now, only the beginning of September, we already see people cutting trees in the woods, secretly.

Summer Time

by Janan

Fear Cont....

There is fear in the Orthodox Church for influence from abroad. There is fear for the Government which is tapping telephones all over the country and not only the foreigners. There is fear for sudden "visits" of police in the house of Evangelical Christians. Christian literature, tracts, and Bibles are hidden.

If we could only bind the following on the hearts of all the fearing people all over the world: Isaiah 43:1 - "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." For those who are afraid to witness: "When thou passest through the water, I will be with thee;... when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned;... For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:..." (vv. 1-3).

We know that He is always with us, therefore *we have to* reach out to inform others with this Wonderful News. You are our co-workers in His service, and we ask you to continue with your prayers for these poor people, for Janan and your missionaries. We love you and appreciate your joining us.

Like all other children who have vacations, our children are also free of classes during the summer.

Sometimes when they were noisy in the classroom, I told them: "If you don't behave decent, you will have three-weeks vacation." In general children are very happy if they hear such a remark, but our children keep silent immediately. They love to come to school.

This summer some of the children went to small villages to live with aunts, uncles, or grandparents on the little "farms." Others went to the beach and enjoyed their free time there.

Most of them were taught to work at a young age. The girls work in the household from 9 years old and at the same age the boys learn to cut wood and to drive the donkeycars. So at the age of 14 years, they are professional drivers. For the first time a lot of our children could find work this summer. They were very proud and happy with it. They plucked cherries and for three buckets per day they received B.1. 100.00 leva which equals the price of two loaves of bread. After the cherry season they plucked pears and later apricots. In the apricot harvest most of them worked only three days, because they ate more of these delicious fruits than they gathered in their buckets.

In September, it still can be hot. The children pass our place to go to the beach and every time they pass they ask: "Janan, when does school begin again?" Then I reply: "When the classroom is ready." (We are repairing and painting the classroom.) Then they answer: "Oh, oh, that will take another two months." Like all the schools we plan to begin in the



middle of September.

About the youth, I can assure you that we miss Valerie who will be in Poland until December. He works there in a market with his parents and he always calls us when he has earned enough money. This brings joy to all of us. Rosen is in the army in a town near

Sofia. That place is notorious because of a high criminality rate. We pray for him and give him into God's loving care.

Suleiman, only 14 years old, worked all summer with his uncle's donkeycar. He went for hay, wood, and corn. He also went fishing when the weather was good for it. Since the beginning of September he is gathering beans in the fields where the farmers have harvested. This is allowed in Bulgaria; it is like in the times of Ruth and Boaz. The beans he can sell for B.1. 40.00 per lbs. and now he is gathering for themselves so that they have beans at home for the wintertime.

The winters are always difficult for our people because they have no jobs then. Samet worked together with his father in a building company. He was paid well and saved his money to buy clothes and sport shoes for the coming school year. He is growing fast and will continue his studies in 7th grade.

Garry did not look for a job and he enjoyed the summer on the beach. I know that each of them was able to witness Christ's love to others in their personal way because I taught them: "For witnessing, there is no vacation." The summer season in Bulgaria is 3 to 4 months, but for us it is summer time throughout the year with all these wonderful kids. It is always harvest time on God's fields.



News Letter From India and Nepal

by E.M. Lall

I am happy to report that our Church work in the country of Nepal is progressing considerably under the leadership of the Rev. William Samuel. At present there are six English Medium Primary Schools and congregations in function. These schools, except one school and congregation at Dhangarhi are in the uttermost parts of Western Nepal.

As William Samuel and myself travelled long in the interior to attend a meeting of three villages, I gave an illustration of a railway train while talking to the gathering. I noted that some people began looking at one another. I realized that in their remotest villages they never had an experience of a railway train. Nor had they ever met a Christian Minister.

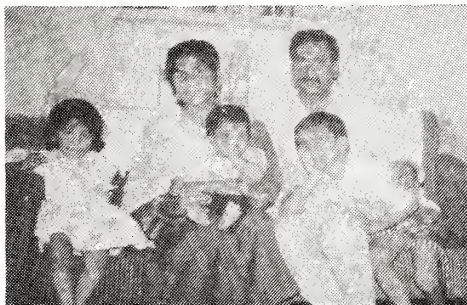
There is a great potential for Christian work in these parts provided the witnessing is done by Nepali preachers. Our people are carrying the challenge among them and an appreciable number of people are accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Big and small congregations are being constituted by our Ministers according to the need. We hope that the Lord will enable us to accomplish the purpose.

India is a country where millions of people have never seen the sea nor a Christian Minister. There are 33 million widows, most of whom are impoverished, unhappy, insecure and so-to-say a condemned lot. For millions of women, the world consists of only two villages, mother's village and Mother-in-law's village. Their world does not contain a Christian witness.

We have a far-reaching evangelism program in which our people are already engaged, and the progress is encouraging. People are being baptized and added to His Kingdom. Simultaneously, the need for more workers in the field is increasing. In the recent past, more Ministers and Deacons for India and Nepal were ordained.

We greet the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina who are the source of inspiration and help to us and are a part of Christian work here.

Our church denominational work has already been started in Delhi, the capital of our country, by the Rev. Joseph E. John. He needs your prayers.



The Rev. William Samuel and his family at their home at Pallia.



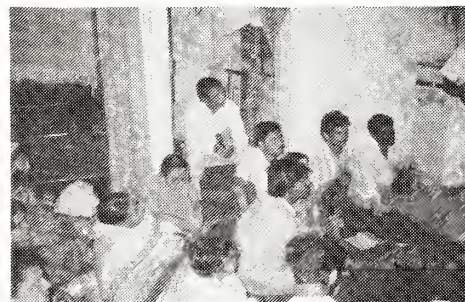
Baptism in Pallia District.



Ordination of Shyam Shimon Kaini of Nepal.



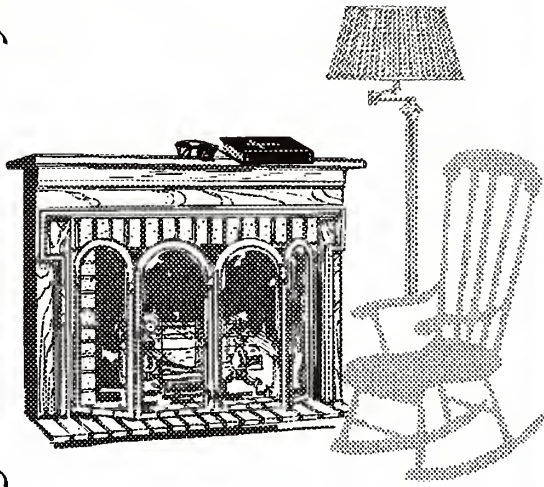
The Rev. Joseph E. John, pastor in charge of Delhi Circuit.



Small congregation established at Faridabad about 28 miles from Delhi.



Original Free Will Baptist



Retirement Ministry

Why is the Rocking Chair Empty?

The obvious answer is because there is no one in it, but the reasons why can vary. It might be empty because the person who occupied the chair is no longer among the living. One of the realities of life, that we each must face, is our own demise. We do not like to think about our mortality, but we inevitably will pass. Our passing and the events leading up to death itself can be very distressing to the loved ones we leave behind.

The chair may be empty because we have had to place a parent or other relative in an institution of some sort. This action can be as disturbing as a death or in some cases even more painful.

The reason the chair in the illustration is empty is because its occupant just went to the kitchen for a snack. That person will return momentarily to take glasses and Bible and again turn to find hope in the Word of our Lord.

Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry exists to provide help in maintaining the possibility of our Free Will Baptist retirees having not only a place, but the resources and support to seek such hope. Also, we believe that our senior citizens should be provided with more than just a place to live and many of our people have a place to live so the retirement program should be more than housing. The Retirement Homes Board has approved an expansion of scope for the ministry and will be moving toward being Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry.

Many changes have been and are being made. The first was the retirement of the Reverend Walter J. Sutton as Executive Director, followed by the selection of the Reverend T. Bruce Dudley to succeed him. Mrs. Sandra Jones, who had so

ably served as secretary and bookkeeper for many years, resigned to devote more time to her primary job with the Board of Foreign Missions. Mrs. Michelle Fordham, administrative assistant for the Convention, has been selected to serve as part-time bookkeeper and assist as she can with other duties.

We are continuing our service to Mrs. Rose Bowen, Mrs. Natalie Taylor and Miss Kaye Jones, who are residents in the program and we are expanding as we are able. We now have available a day-long workshop dealing with issues related to caring for and aging parent. This Video-Workshop explores the subject both from the viewpoint of the aging parent and the adult child who must provide the care. Further, it provides information on the following subjects:

- Housing Alternatives
- Support Services
- Nursing Homes
- Medical and Health Issues
- Legal Issues (no legal advice)
- Finance
- Insurance
- Government Programs
- Death and Dying (dealing with grief)

Moreover, we have assembled a list of more than 30 different agencies that might provide resources and advice in meeting the needs of senior adults or the adult child that needs help in caring for a parent. We encourage all our people to contact us if they need help or referral. In addition, we can provide workshops of a shorter duration than the day-long program for specific needs for your community. Our Executive Director is anxious to come to your Church or auxiliary to share our possibilities and our needs with you, please call and arrange a time.

Good News!

The property at 411 North Lee Street has been sold and our indebtedness has been greatly reduced. We are not out of debt, but all the past-due has been paid and the remaining debt is current. This is great news and we are very thankful for your support but we need to inform you that we still have debt payments totaling \$ 1,025.67 due on the first of each month. This amount is greatly reduced from just a few years ago and we believe that we can now begin to look forward to a complete debt-free status in the coming years.

The primary goal for our Retirement Ministry, as we look to the future, is for service to our senior citizens and our churches who minister to them. We are thinking about new proposals for service and if you have an identified need, please let us know so that we may consider it.

Our greatest need is for your support, with concern, prayer and gifts. Our new people cannot succeed by themselves, we must have your praying support and thoughtful concern. Please call us if we can be of service to you and your church. (919) 746-4963



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Events of Interest at Mount Olive College During November

Nov. 11, Monday	Campus Visitation Day
Nov. 11, Monday	Music in the Chapel, Rodgers Chapel, 7:30 PM
Nov. 14, Thursday	The C. Felix Harvey Global TransPark Conference
Nov. 15, Friday	Bible Translators Banquet
Nov. 22-23, Fri. & Sat.	Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament and Alumni Homecoming
Nov. 26, Tuesday	Founder's Day
Nov. 26, Tuesday	Board of Trustees Meeting
Nov. 28, Thursday	Thanksgiving (College is closed)

Church Dinners During November

Nov. 2, Saturday	6:00 PM — Duplin County at the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Nov. 4, Monday	7:00 PM — Johnston-Wake Counties at the Spiritual Life Building, Everett Chapel FWB Church, Clayton
Nov. 9, Saturday	6:00 PM — Carteret County at West Carteret High School, Morehead City
Nov. 12, Tuesday	7:00 PM — Craven County at West Craven Middle School near New Bern
Nov. 14, Thursday	7:30 PM — Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties at Union Chapel FWB Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth
Nov. 18, Monday	7:00 PM — Wilson County at Beddington High School near Wilson
Nov. 19, Tuesday	7:00 PM — Pitt County at J. H. Rose High School, Greenville
Nov. 21, Thursday	7:00 PM — Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties at the Clinton- Sampson Agri-Civic Center, Clinton

A CLASSIC WEEKEND: PICKLE CLASSIC SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 22-23

Attention Mount Olive College alumni and friends!

The annual *Pickle Classic* is set for Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23. The *Pickle Classic* is a basketball tournament hosted by the Mount Olive Trojans and the Mount Olive Kiwanis.

Over the years, the *Pickle Classic* has also evolved into a very nice event for alumni to rally around as a *homecoming*. Dianne Riley, arguable the college's most loyal graduate and the Director of Admissions, has energized a committee to make this year's *Pickle Classic* "A Classic Weekend" for Mount Olive College alumni, friends and family.

Built around the two games on both Friday and Saturday, there will be opportunities for grads to visit, catch-up on news, show-off new family additions, rekindle friendships with classmates and faculty, reminisce, and just have a good time!

On Friday evening upstairs in College Hall, yearbooks and old photographs will be on display to rekindle some old and not-so-old memories. On Saturday afternoon between 3:00 and 5:00 PM, the campus will be open for tours and visiting. And plans are being made for an alumni, friends, and faculty dinner in the Loise K. Murphy Regional Center.

Additionally, you will see some topnotch college basketball. Coach Bill Clingan's basketball team is looking pretty good as it prepares for play in the Carolinas - Virginia Athletics Conference. The *Pickle Classic* will be the team's first public outing and a preview of the Trojans' prospects for the upcoming season.

Teams from Emmanuel College of Georgia, University of North Florida, and the University of the District of Columbia round out this year's tournament foursome.

So, let's get-together and keep alive a Mount Olive College tradition! We are still a young college, and we've got something good going with the *Pickle Classic*. Whether your interest is basketball, catching up with old friends, or visiting the campus, or all three, make plans to be here on November 22 and 23!

More information about the *Pickle Classic's Classic Weekend* will be forthcoming; otherwise, call 1-800-653-0854.

CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION

A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR THE REVEREND C. FELTON GODWIN

Whereas, the Reverend C. Felton Godwin was in the fifteenth year of service on the Board of Directors of the Church Finance Association, Inc., at the time of his death; and

Whereas, because of his faithfulness and dedication to the Association, his untimely passing was a great loss; and

Whereas, his understanding and abilities in financial matters will be greatly missed; and

Whereas, he will be missed by Board members and membership alike;

Therefore, we the Board of Directors of the Church Finance Association express our deepest appreciation for his faithful service; further,

We express our sincere thanks for the progress the Association made while he was a member of the Board of Directors; further,

We express to his wife, Christine, and to his family and friends, our sincere heartfelt sympathy.

This done by the Board of Directors of the Church Finance Association, Inc., in regular session August 7, 1996.

State Layman's League

Dates

November 7	Promotional Committee 7:00 pm Headquarters, Ayden
November 15	State Layman's League Meeting 6:30 pm First Church of Kinston
December 2	Central Conference
May 3, 1997	State Layman's League

Why a Layman's League?

PURPOSE AND GOAL

PURPOSE: (1) To bring men in the Free Will Baptist denomination together to promote fellowship and sharing; (2) to increase our knowledge and power in CHRIST JESUS; (3) to reach out and touch others for Christ; (4) to train and enhance our talents for the great calling of our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST; (5) to strengthen the spiritual fabric among all laymen in our denomination to worship and serve God in unity (1 Corinthians 16:13).

GOAL: To exalt CHRIST through the agencies which GOD in His providence has provided for the people making up the Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina (Matthew 22:37).

MOTTO: "World-wide Christian soldiers marching as to WAR, with the CROSS and FLAG of JESUS going on before, throughout the WORLD."

Photo's From Layman's League . . .

Spiritual Life Retreat
Camp Vandemere
June 1996



Central Conference
Friendship FWB Church
June 1996



Central Conference
Elm Grove FWB Church
September 1996



Features

MEMORIES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy A. McCoy, Editor of Free Will Baptist
Dr. Pepper Worthington, Writer-in-Residence, Mount Olive College

PART TWO: MINISTRY REPORTS

CHILDREN'S HOME REPORT

"Imagine sitting in a mudhole with five children," began Dr. Bobby Taylor. "We had been cutting trees and the trunks left a mudhole. The young men with whom I worked are a part of our Children's Home. I know them a lot better now after our cleanup from Fran. We've now had enough cookouts and outdoor washing of clothes to last a lifetime. But we are a close family through our labor together, our praying together, our problem-solving together," he declared.

"I would like for you to close your eyes and in your mind go back to when you were 10," he said. "Imagine you are sitting in a chair in a strange building in a strange place among strange people." Dr. Taylor continued to create a story of the lonely, forsaken 10-year-old.



Dr. Bobby Taylor told the story of a lonely 10-year-old in his report.

"Imagine that a lady comes into the strange building and says to you — 'I'm your case worker. We are going to find a place for you to go.' You are only 10 and you feel terrified, scared.

All that you own is in your one suitcase."

He paused.

"Now you are taken to a home, carried into another strange building and shown where you can put your stuff. Other children are looking at you because you are new, unfamiliar. Do you get the picture?" he asked as he looked out upon the faces of delegates.

"We get such 10-year-olds at the Children's Home. In 1995, we celebrated 75 years. We have a therapist on campus most of the year. We have done extensive training for our staff. We need your support. We need a strong endowment base and we are getting there."

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS BOOKS RELEASED AT THE EIGHTY-FOURTH CONVENTION

Six publications from the vigorous Mount Olive College Press were released at the Eighty-Fourth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists: (1) *Mount Olive College Review: Sociological and Historical Perspectives*; (2) *Beneath the Devil's Nose* by Billie Jean Huling; (3) *Meditations* by Pepper Worthington; (4) 1996 Distinguished Foreign Historical Essay by Dr. Emmanuel M. Lall; (5) *Beneath the Surface* by Bonnie McCarson and illustrated by Bonnie Blue Burton; (6) *A History of the Original Free Will Baptists* by Dr. Michael R. Pelt.



Author Billie Jean Huling autographs her new book, *Beneath the Devil's Nose*.



Author Bonnie McCarson (left) and illustrator, Bonnie Blue Burton (right), autograph their new book, *Beneath the Surface*, for Dr. De Wayne Eakes.



James B. Hunt (left) congratulates Dr. Pepper Worthington (right) on the release of her new book, *Meditations*, at the Convention.



NOVEMBER



Is Children's Home Month

SUN	MON	TUE	
27	28	29	30
3	4 * MOC Dinner, Johnston and Wake Counties	5	6
10	11 + Press Material Deadline <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 * MOC Dinner, Craven County ● Foreign Missions Board Meeting, 10:00 AM	13 *
17	18 * MOC Dinner, Wilson County	19 * MOC Dinner, Pitt County + Press Board Meeting, 1:00 PM	20
24	25	26 * Founder's Day at Mount Olive College	27

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

G E N D

vious/following month

rent month

○ Minsiter's Program

▲ Cragmont

● Foreign Missions

✦ FWB Convention News

✦ FWB Press Deadline

▼ Children's Home

◆ Layman's League

* Mount Olive College

★ Conference Meeting

■ Vandemere

✧ Woman's Auxiliary

THU

FRI

SAT

31

1

2

* MOC Dinner,
Duplin County

7

★ Central Conference, (Peace)
★ Cape Fear Conference,
(Pleasant Grove)
◆ Layman's League - Promtional
Committee, 7:00 PM Headquarters

8

9

* MOC Dinner,
Carteret County

g 1997 (November 4 - 8)

14

* MOC Dinner,
Washington, Martin, Tyrell,
Pasq.
○ Minsiter's Program
Board Meeting, 11:00 AM

15

◆ Layman's League,
First Church Kinston,
6:30 PM

26

et East-MOC

21

* MOC Dinner,
Sampson, Harnett, Cumberland
▼ Children's Home
Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

22

23

▼ Friends of Children Day

28

**FWB Press and
Bookstores Closed**

29

30

▲ Cragmont Board Meeting,
(Cragmont)

**Mount Olive College Closed
Headquarters Closed**

Thanksgiving Day

*December Is
Foreign Missions Month*

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



Dr. Michael R. Pelt (right) prepares to autograph his new book, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, as his wife Betty holds up the cover for convention delegates to see.



The Rev. David C. Hansley (center) hold up the newly released *Mount Olive Review: Historical and Sociological Perspectives* while others hold up the new publications of the Mount Olive College Press.



Bishop Forbes said, "The man of love is here!"

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY REPORT

"We want our lives to count," said the Rev. John Williams. "The world has taught us to measure our success in money. If we have money left over after a year is through, we are considered successful. So we talk about budgets, income, and expenses. We may lose sight of our mission and what we are about," he declared.

"What are our goals?" asked the Rev. Williams. "What are we trying to accomplish? Our mission is more important than money. Money is a means," he insisted.

"At Cragmont," he explained, "we learn how to live the Christian life. We help people put their lives more fully together. I dream of Cragmont's becoming a convention center where conferences are ongoing. People return home as Easter people. I hope you will become involved," he said.



The Rev. John Williams spoke of his dream of Cragmont becoming a convention center for ongoing programs to build the Kingdom.

FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT

"We are debt-free," announced the Rev. Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions. "We operate our budget on

PART III

MEMORIES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS THE CALL TO WORSHIP

A sense of global witness pervaded the Eighty-Fourth Convention with the appearance of the Rev. Antonio Escobar. Likewise, the Convention attracted delegates and ministers from all the conference areas. The Rev. W. Scott Sowers expressed delight in the team spirit evident at the Convention.



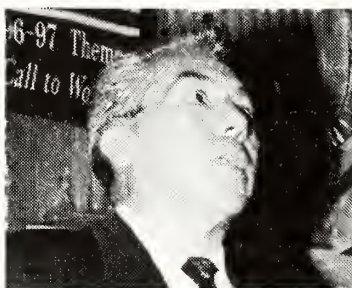
The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the Convention, expressed delight in the team spirit evident at the Convention.

GREETINGS FROM MEXICO

The Rev. Antonio Escobar sent greetings to all at the Convention from the Original Free Will Baptists in Mexico.

"The Lord bless you today," said the Rev. Escobar. "Give them a hello

from Mexico, Embrace them real tight for us. Greetings from the churches and pastors of Mexico. This time has been a great blessing to me. It is a privilege to be here this day. God bless you," he concluded.



The Rev. Antonio Escobar brought greetings from Mexico to the Eighty-Fourth Convention delegates.

BISHOP FORBES'S BLESSING

"The man of love is here!" declared Bishop Forbes as he embraced all at the Convention.

"God has taught me how to love. Love with the love of Jesus," he stressed.

"The handwriting is on the wall. Time is not as long as we would like. Let us not hold a grudge. Let us love one another. Every day may be our last day. God bless all of you!" he exclaimed.

a debt-free basis. God's ministry has been placed in the hands of good people called Free Will Baptist's," he said.

Many smiled and felt reaffirmed with the Rev. Jones's validation.

"The Board of Foreign Missions has asked me to make a change in the name in order to make our work less politically difficult. The name of Foreign Missions and the church-related titles are not welcomed overseas. We live in a different world and we must adjust in order to have a viable ministry in our work overseas. I wish to move that we change the name of Board of Foreign Missions to the OFWB International."

The motion passed.

"In our transaction of business, we will immediately begin to use that name. Our work in India has expanded as well as our work in the Phillippines. What you do in prayer and in financial support determines our strength of outreach," he declared.

In an effort to heighten the importance of faith overseas and at home, the Rev. Jones states, "A revival can come if we open both our hearts and minds. A revival can come through prayers."



The Rev. Harold Jones requested that the name of the Board of Foreign Missions to be changed to OFWB International in his Convention report.

The Rev. Jones made four recommendations:

1. That this report to the 1996 Convention be adopted.
2. That the Convention encourage every member to pray faithfully for revival and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

3. That the months of March and December continue to be designated as "Foreign Missions Month" in our Convention calendar.

4. That the Convention support our 1996-97 budget.

The four recommendations passed.

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS REPORT

"I am delighted to report that the financial condition of Free Will Baptist Press is good," announced Mr. Cliff Gray, director of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

"Our mission is to spread the word through the printed page," he said.

"We appreciate your support of Christian literature. We want you to have the opportunity to buy Christian literature at our four bookstores — Kinston, Ayden, New Bern, and Wilson. We have a new location in New Bern, now at 1232 S. Glenburnie Road in Glenburnie Plaza. We have also been able to buy the building for the Kinston Bible and Bookstore on 123 North Queen Street," he announced enthusiastically.

With a smile, he encouraged everyone to visit the Free Will Baptist Press display area out in the lobby. He also invited all to take advantage of the eight dollars per year rate for the *Free Will Baptist*.



Mr. Cliff Gray, Director of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., stressed the importance for Free Will Baptists to subscribe to the publication, *Free Will Baptist Press*, in order to know what is going on in the denomination!

"Our publication, the *Free Will Baptist*, is an opportunity for you to know

what's going on in the denomination and to learn what we are doing. We ask for your continued prayers and support," he concluded.



Dr. Pepper Worthington (left) and Happy Taylor (right) enjoy the release of the Mount Olive College Press's new book, *Meditations*, printed by the vigorous Free Will Baptist Press. The FWB Press has printed the *Mini-Meditations* as the 1996-97 MOC Bridge Builders' gift.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE REPORT

"We are glad to have you here in College Hall for this Eighty-Fourth Convention," declared Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College. His broad smile warmed the space.

"Our mission at Mount Olive College is threefold: *Higher Learning, Higher Standards, Higher Values*. We seek to help people to develop their intellect, to develop their Christian life, to strive for higher standards. We do the very best we can do in all that we do," he proclaimed.



Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, welcomed (everyone) to College Hall for the Eighty-Fourth Convention.

"The higher values we seek to develop represent the values of the Free Will Baptist Church. Our values are the values of the Christian Free Will

Baptist church. This is the bias we bring to our task — the bias of the basic tenets that govern all Christian people, he said.

He smiled.

"It is a privilege to be President of Mount Olive College, to be able to do the ministry that we do," he said.

"Our enrollment last year had a 25 percent increase among various locations. We are reaching out to more people in New Bern, Wilmington, Goldsboro, and here on our campus. We have had a 14 percent increase this year in the traditional daytime students on our campus. As we expand our ministry, we are reaching more people," he stated.

"And what programs of outreach are we doing? Today we have authors from the Mount Olive College Press. New books are being released today."

Dr. Byrd asked the MOC Press authors to stand.



Dr. J. William Byrd, President of Mount Olive College, acknowledged some of the new books from the Mount Olive College Press in his Convention report. L to R: Billie Jean Huling, *Beneath the Devil's Nose*; Bonnie McC Carson and Bonnie Blue Burton, *Beneath the Surface*; Pepper Worthington, *Meditations*.



Eloise Futrell (left) and David Hill (left) look over the new Mount Olive College Press release, *Beneath the Surface*. Bonnie McC Carson and Bonnie

Blue Burton (right) find delight in answering questions about their book.

"Our programs have expanded our outreach so that Mount Olive College is a success story," he reported. "Now I would like to make the following six recommendations to the Eighty-Fourth Convention:"

- 1 That the Convention officially receive the 1995-96 report of Mount Olive College;
- 2 That the Convention continue to designate February and July as Christian Education months and that Sunday schools and churches be encouraged to designate Fifth Sundays as Scholarship Days for the benefit of Free Will Baptist students attending Mount Olive College;
- 3 That the Convention recommend to each affiliated church that it enter or continue gift support for the new dining hall/student center for five years (minimum of \$1,000 per year suggested);
- 4 That the Convention and all Free Will Baptists continue to support Mount Olive College through prayer and personal encouragement;
- 5 That the Convention rally the affiliated churches to encourage their youth to consider Mount Olive College as their choice for higher education;
- 6 That the Convention recommend to the affiliated churches the following minimum gift support to Mount Olive College:

General Current Fund Budget	\$350,000
Scholarship and Grants	250,000
<u>Dining Hall/Student Center</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Total Requested from Churches	\$800,000

The six recommendations passed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY REPORT

"Beginning in October the Sunday School Board asked that I visit all of our churches. This will take over five years. If you would like for me to speak on behalf of the Sunday School

work, I would be glad to do so. Invite me," Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of Sunday School Ministry encouraged.

"Let me report that our Resource Center is alive and well. If you need materials, you can order from our four denominational bookstores," she said.



Mrs. Mary Dudley, director of the Sunday School Ministry, encouraged people to buy publications for Sunday school study at the Free Will Baptist Press's four bookstores.

Mary Dudley then made five recommendations to the Eighty-Fourth Convention:

- 1 That this report to the Convention be adopted.
- 2 That the Convention continue to designate February as Sunday School Month with February 23, 1997 being set aside as Sunday School Day.
- 3 That the Convention encourage each church to include the Sunday School Board as its work in its budget in the amount of at least \$1.00 per average Sunday School member.
- 4 That each member of the Convention continue to pray for the work of the Sunday School Board, which is spreading the message of our Lord to "teach" and make disciples.
- 5 That the Convention approve the 1996-97 budget.

These five recommendations passed.

HOME MISSIONS REPORT

"We had a successful trip to California," reported the Rev. David C. Hansley, Director of Home Missions. "I encourage you to go with us on

some of our trips to the home missions sites," he said.



The Rev. David C. Hansley enthusiastically reported that Home Missions has had one of the best years ever.

"And yes, there is a swimming pool at St. Cloud's. We purchased a home in a development and by putting in a swimming pool, we can sell it a lot better. The swimming pool has already brought new members to the St. Cloud mission," he reported.

"We are now trying to increase our outreach to the migrant Spanish people in Duplin County. We have been given a church valued at \$48,500 so that we can go into Duplin County. Is that not a gift?" he asked.

Applause erupted.

"Now I wish to honor someone special for her work with youth for over 30 years," he announced. He called Mary Dudley to the platform and he awarded her a plaque from the Boy Scouts of America for her work with youth in Duplin County.

The Rev. Hansley made two recommendations to the Convention:

- 1 That the Convention receive the 1995-96 report of Home Missions and Evangelism.
- 2 That the Convention continue to designate April and September as Home Missions and Evangelism Months and that the fourth Sunday in April be designated as Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday in every Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Both recommendations were passed.



"O Send out thy light and thy truth."
Ps. 43.3

HELP!!!

Camp Vandmere Needs Your Help

Hurricane Bertha and the floods of Fran have hit Camp Vandemere with a hard blow!! Our insurance will only cover a small portion of the damage we have received. We have completely lost our swimming pool, we have damage to the walkway and the concession stand, knocking out our drink coolers, damaging two freezers beyond repair. We have extensive damage to 3 pianos and 1 organ. Flooding has ruined the carpet and furniture in our lounge. We have several uprooted trees, damage to our new pier and almost totally destroyed 1 existing pier. We have lost shingles on 2 buildings and we have much debris to be cleaned up and removed.

We need several thousand dollars over and above our regular support... won't you please HELP??

We are asking each church to put on a special campaign to raise money for these funds through bake sales, suppers, yard sales or special offerings over and above the regular budget.

Please, send these funds as soon as possible to:

Mrs. Judy Kennedy
933 N. NC 41
Pink Hill, NC 28572

Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Ralph Sumner

~~Camp Vandemere~~ ~~Our Family Enrichment Center~~

ARE YOU WILLING?

by Julia Pate Gaskins

Camp Vandemere is owned by the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, but the main goal of the camp is to reach as many people for the Lord as possible. Our dream is to serve God on a full-time basis. I encourage ALL of our people in North Carolina to make use of this fine facility.

Camp Vandemere is a good camp and is in the process of being better. We need the help of all of you. Are you willing to help? Will you pray for our camp? Please pray that God will continue to prosper us and that His will be done in all things here. Pray that our people will see the needs here.

Are you willing to give to the cause of Christ? We thank each one who supports us financially, but that is not enough. We need your time to help us labor. There is always much work to do. Talent is bountiful in our denomination and we really need your ideas to make our camp better.

Are you willing to tell others? We have had young people and adult groups here this season. Many have expressed their enjoyment and promised to go out and tell others about our camp. Please help our camp grow by telling others.

God has given to us everything that we have. Are you willing to share what He has given to you? Since the hurricanes we need your help more than ever.

Someone made the statement that she would not stay at Camp Vandemere because it is not "nice" enough. Statements like that break my heart. Our homes are nice and our churches are beautiful. When we buy furnishings for these places we buy things that we are proud of. This is your camp and my camp. Please help make this a place that is comfortable and restful for everyone.

Christians should be the happiest people on earth. Every opportunity that we have to serve God will bring us joy. Will you consecrate your service to the Lord? We want a first class camp because we serve a first class God. You can help. Maybe you can ask your church to include us in their budget. Many churches already support Camp Vandemere. We thank you. Many churches do not support us. We ask that you prayerfully consider this. Individual help is appreciated very much too. Perhaps a Sunday school class or an auxiliary of the church will be led to support us. If we are not a first class facility, it is not God's fault. It is ours.

Are you willing to consecrate your service to the Lord? Don't let someone else do all of the serving, because if you do that someone will receive all of the joy. When we look for blessings we can usually find them. When we OBEY God, He will bless us. He is not stingy with His blessings. Let us not be stingy with Him. Camp Vandemere belongs first to God. He has given it to you and me to take care of and to use for Him.

My prayer is, "God gives us willing Christians." We need people who are willing to pray, willing to give, willing to attend, willing to serve and willing to witness.

Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14, NRSV.

YOUTH CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS 1996

First Place Winners

Arts & Crafts

Cherubs

Sculpture — Dwayne Godwin, Beaverdam Church, Pee Dee District

Needle Work/Wearable Art — Tiffany Thorton, Indian Springs Church, Eastern District

Woodwork — Ashley Barnett, Indian Springs Church, Eastern District

Other — Nicole Smith, White Oak Church, Pee Dee District

Painting/Drawing — Ricky Whitman, Pleasant Grove Church, Cape Fear District

Ceramics/Pottery/Glasswork — Louis Paul III, Free Union Church, Albemarle District

AFC's

Painting/Drawing/Photo — Danielle Strickland, Bethlehem Church, Eastern District

Woodwork — Jessica Barnett, Indian Springs Church, Eastern District

Sculpture — Amy Daughtry, Westside Church, Eastern District

Needlework/Wearable Art — Nicole Clayton, Trinity Church, Albemarle District

Ceramics/Pottery/Glasswork — Jonathan Holland, Union Grove Church, Western District

Other — Crystal Cooper, Trinity Church, Albemarle District

YFA's

Ceramics/Pottery/Glasswork — Thomas Ward, Charity Church, Pee Dee District

Needlework/Wearable Art — Rose Marie Smith, Charity Church, Pee Dee District

Painting/Drawing/Photography — Clair Taylor, Hickory Chapel Church, Albemarle District

Sculpture — Henry Berry, Charity Church, Pee Dee District

Woodwork — Jeff Lucas, Pleasant Grove Church, Cape Fear District

Other — Kayla Clayton, Sidney Church, Albemarle District

BIBLE BOWL

AFC — Beaverdam Church, Pee Dee District

YFA — Reedy Branch Church, Central District

CHRISTIAN WRITING

AFC — Cameron Rose, Trinity Church, Albemarle District

YFA — Michelle Wooten, Kings Crossroads Church, Central District

LESSON PRESENTATION

AFC — Amanda Buck, First Church Tarboro, Central District

YFA — Kelly King, First Church Wilson, Western District

PUBLIC SPEAKING

AFC — Bryan Ward, Reedy Branch Church, Central District

YFA — Joell Kennedy, Sandy Plain Church, Eastern District

TALENT SEARCH

Cherubs

Individual — Allison Garrell, Beaverdam Church, Pee Dee District

Group — First Church Tarboro, Central District

AFC's

Individual — Kelly Tyson, Kings Crossroads Church, Central District

Group — First Church Tarboro, Central District

Other — Trinity AFC's, Trinity Church, Albemarle District

YFA's

Individual — Clair Taylor, Hickory Chapel Church, Albemarle District

Group — Sandy Plain YFA's, Sandy Plain Church, Eastern District

Other — Trinity YFA's, Trinity Church, Albemarle District

Awards from the First Place Winners drawing went to the following:

Allison Garrell — Pee Dee District
Louis W. Paul III — Albemarle District
Thomas Ward — Pee Dee District
Danielle Strickland — Eastern District
Kendall Jennings — Central District
Tiffany Thornton — Eastern District

Project for 1997 — Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is Foreign Missions, Mexico, Construction of Parsonage in 1997 (Short-Term Ministry)

It will cost \$7,000.00 to build. Each year our goal is \$5,000.00. For the past two years we have gone way over our goal of \$5,000.00. It would be great for the Youth Convention to provide the full \$7,000.00.

We encourage each church within our Free Will Baptist Churches to set a goal of \$150.00 per church. Please include this in your 1997 budget and your prayer list. Thank you so much for your support.

1997

Youth Convention of Original FWB of North Carolina

Theme is Soul Improvement (So you will improve)

Public Speaking Topic is Soul Improvement

(Scripture Psalm 51:10)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.*

PASTOR NEEDED

Palmer Memorial FWB Church in Garner, NC is seeking a pastor. Any minister interested in applying is asked to call

Glenn Dupree at 919-772-0136

White Hill FWB Church is seeking a pastor.

If you are interested, contact:

Gary Jordan

PO Box 519 • Aurora, NC 27806

919-322-5615

St. Mary's Grove FWB Church in Benson (Cape Fear Conference) is searching for a full-time pastor.

If interested contact

Danny Coates

1131 N. Pleasant-Coats Rd • Benson, NC 27504

919-934-5392

Wintergreen FWB Church Bus For Sale



Bus may seen by contacting
Frankie Wetherington (638-1061)
Darrell Wood (638-5342)
Bids Being Accepted

PASTOR AVAILABLE

The Rev. L. Grady Tucker will be available for full-time or part-time pastoral service and/or Revival services effective October 7, 1996. Contact :

Rev. Tucker - 919-633-0986 or
705 River Road • New Bern, NC

The Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez is available for full-time or part-time pastorate. Contact:

Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez - 919-934-4414 or
6410 Black Creek Road • Smithfield, NC 27577

Ordained Minsiter, Jerry E. Rowe is available for regular, supply, or interim pastorate within commuting distace from his residence in the Newport, NC area. Contact:

Jerry E. Rowe - 919-393-8890 or
138 Pearson Circle • Newport, NC 28570

Rev. A. B. Bryan is available for full, part-time, supply, interim or special services. Contact:

Rev. A. B. Bryan - 919-736-8996
231 Five Points Road • Dudley, NC 28333

Ordained Minister, Braxton Carter, is available for supply work, full-time or part-time pastoral work, fill pulpits for vacation or sickness, and/or youth minister positions. If interested contact

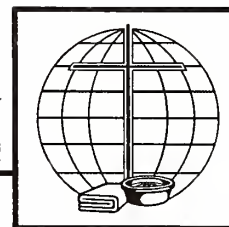
Braxton Carter
103 Alpine Way • Clayton, NC 27520
919-553-7246 (H) • 919-505-6105 (pager)

Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary

is offering a course at Yelverton Grove near Smithfield. The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, pastor of Westside, will be speaking on the topic: "Am I a Good Auxiliary Member?"

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary

voted at their fall meeting to change their 1997 Convention to Saturdays temporarily. The spring meeting will be March 15, 1997 at Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church, Sneads Ferry, NC and the fall meeting will be on Saturday, September 20, 1997.



News from Christian Chapel

On October 6, Christian Chapel Free Will Baptist Church held their Homecoming. Many old friends and new ones



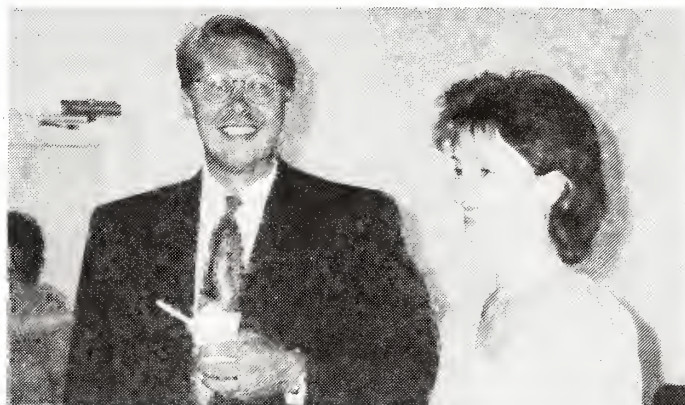
came to enjoy the special day. Pat Howard did a wonderful job with our Memorial Service. Special singing was enjoyed by everyone given by members of our church. God blessed us with a beautiful day.

After homecoming dinner all the youth got together since there was no church Sunday night and went skating. About 30 youth went and had a wonderful time.



News from Holly Springs

The Rev. Ray Conner, his wife, Ginny, and sons, Raymond, Joseph, and Marcus were welcomed to Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church by the Ladies Sunday school class with a homemade ice cream social on September 1. Pictured are pastor Ray and Ginny enjoying homemade ice cream.



The Ladies Sunday school class of Holly Springs FWB Church of Newport visited Camp Vandemere on September 21. The pastor's wife, Ginny Conner (center), presented a program of her Mexico missionary trip. She is wearing an authentic Mexican dress.

Also pictured are Ginny's parents, Aldric and Julia Gaskins, who are the new managers of Camp Vandemere.

The group had a wonderful time at the camp, and invited all Free Will Baptists to visit Camp Vandemere and utilize this wonderful asset.





News from Lanwood Chapel FWB Church



On September 22, 1996 the members of Lanwood Chapel FWB Church celebrated their Homecoming. The Rev. Floyd Smith brought the message that morning. Right after the morning worship hour the congregation assembled outside the fellowship building to have a special dedication and note burning.

Three years ago the congregation took on the project of a new building. After one year the building was almost completed with about three-fourths paid for, however, to complete the building the church borrowed the money. The Rev. C. M. Coats agreed to lend members the money, of which the church repaid the loan in twenty-five months, which was accomplished in September 1996.

The new building was named the Rev. C. M. Coats Fellowship Hall in honor of the Rev. C. M. Coats and wife, Pearl, for all the work they have done over the years. Our heartfelt thanks and love go to the Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Coats.

A picture and plaque will be placed in the fellowship hall in honor of them and their accomplishments. The members of Lanwood Chapel FWB Church invites everyone to come and worship with us. With a quote from the Rev. C. M. Coats "We will love you so many ways you will have to like one of them."

We want to thank all of those who came to be with us for our celebration.

News from Smyrna Church

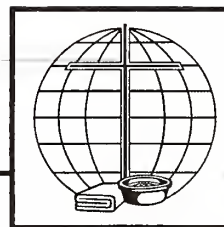
Eula Mae Fornel, daughter of the late Rev. W. A. Martin, longtime pastor of Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference), who for many years served as a missionary for our Denomination in Brazil, died of cancer on September 1. The funeral and burial were held in Brazil. A memorial service was held at Stevens' Chapel, her home church, on Saturday, September 14.

The Smyrna Church (Cape Fear conference) observed "A Day of Praise and Recognition of Grandparents" on Sunday, September 16.

Following the opening of Sunday school, the pastor, Rev. Ronnie Haynes, invited the membership to the altar to "praise the Lord" for His mercy in sparing their members during the recent storm. Two families of the church lost their homes due to the storm and the church building along with the fellowship hall received damage.

During the worship service the adult choir presented the offertory hymn followed by recognition of all grandparents present conducted by the youth committee under the direction of Sonja Wood. The youth choir presented a musical tribute to grandparents led by Lori Lee followed by the message for-the-day by the pastor who had been made a grandparent for the second time a few days before.

Smyrna held their annual Homecoming service on Sunday, October 6. The church is located on Highway 96 approximately three miles East of Meadow School. The service began at 10:00 AM with Sunday school. During the 11:00 AM worship service the "Annual Harvest Offering to the Lord" was received and the pastor, the Rev. Ronnie Hayes, delivered the Homecoming message. The adult choir presented the music during the Singspiration which began at 1:30 PM. Lunch was served in the fellowship hall following the worship service. Services were in memory of Mrs. Lela Parker and Mr. Ollis Sloan, members who have passed away during the past year.



EASTERN DISTRICT AUXILIARY FALL CONVENTION

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention was held at Spring Hope Church near New Bern on Thursday, September 19, 1996. The theme, "A Win-Some Personality," was emphasized throughout the day.

Eva Fader, Kinston, opened the meeting with prayer. Local president Eva Mae Clark welcomed the Convention, and Ola Smith, of Macedonia, responded. The president made remarks on the day's theme, appointed committees, and recognized those present. She recognized Mrs. Clara Patrick, who reported that her husband became ill at Bethany FWB Church and remains at home; and they request our prayers.

The secretary reported that she mailed 81 registrations and received 34. Her report included a proposal from Sarecta Church to change the meeting day to Saturday. Motion was later made by Amy Scott, seconded by the secretary, and passed, that the Conventions in 1997 be held on the 3rd Saturday, March 15 and September 20, for a trial, that we evaluate in September and decide whether or not to continue meeting on 3rd Saturdays.

Study Course Chairman, Lillian Grubbs, urged attendance at the District study on the *Manual of Methods...* at 9:30 on Saturday, October 26, at Core Creek Church, Cove City. Classes will begin at 10:00, with members of the Executive Committee teaching each officer's duties.

Youth Chairman, Angie Piner, noted postponement of the Youth Convention to September 21, due to storm and flood damage. Youth officers will be elected for the next two years at their meeting at Bethany.

The president recognized author, Dr. Michael Pelt, who presented his recently published book, conceived and planned to help us know our heritage and history.

Mrs. Julia Gaskins, who assisted her husband in managing Camp Vandemere, reported a very successful year. She stated that there were 24 first-time decisions in the Youth Weeks and Spring Hope, for example, baptized 14 as a result. There was much storm damage, some of which has been repaired. She noted items needed, including a large lawn tractor, on down to brooms and light bulbs. She invited all to visit the Camp.

The Rev. Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator of the State Convention, gave his report and recognized those present representing various ministries: Gary Lee, Children's Home; Mike Scott, Foreign Missions; Tracy McCoy, Free Will Baptist Press; David C. Hansley, Home Missions and Evangelism; Chris Singleton, Minister's Program; Happy Taylor, Mount Olive College; and Bruce Dudley, new director of Retirement Ministries.

Janie Wilson of Pleasant Grove Church, Pikeville, presented the memorial service for seven members who died during the past year.

In the worship service, the president led the responsive reading and the Rev. Hansley led in prayer. We read the Affirmation of Faith responsively. The host church presented three solos: "Holy Ground," "I Know a Man That Can," and "My Wonderful, Wonderful Lord." Host pastor, the Rev. Doug Randall, used Mark 5:1-19 as the text for his sermon, "Three 'Whats' that are very essential to our Christian walk." He named them as #1 — What Satan can do; #2 — What God can do; and #3 — What I will do. The sermon was followed by the hymn, "He Hideth My Soul."

In the business session, the president appointed the nominating committee to choose a slate of officers for 1997-1999 and report to the Executive Committee in January 1997. Officers will be installed at the Spring Convention in March of 1997. The committee is: Judith Kennedy, Angie Piner, and Ann Winborne.

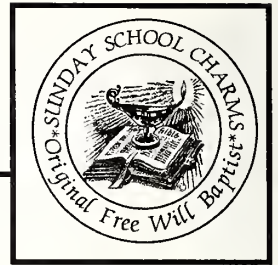
The registration committee reported a total registration of 85. The report of the resolution committee was adopted with a rising vote. Treasurer Velma Morris gave her financial report. She also noted as information that mattresses for the girls dorm at Cragmont have been purchased at a cost of \$70.00 each, and donations on this debt can be mailed to her. (The Eastern District will receive credit and she will forward the money to Cragmont.)

The president announced that the Spring Convention March 15, 1997, will be at Folkstone Church; and we need invitations for September and subsequent meetings.

After lunch announcements, the Rev. Randall blessed the meal and dismissed the Convention. The host church served a delicious lunch, during which a time of fellowship was enjoyed by those attending the Convention.

Nina Grace Register, Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



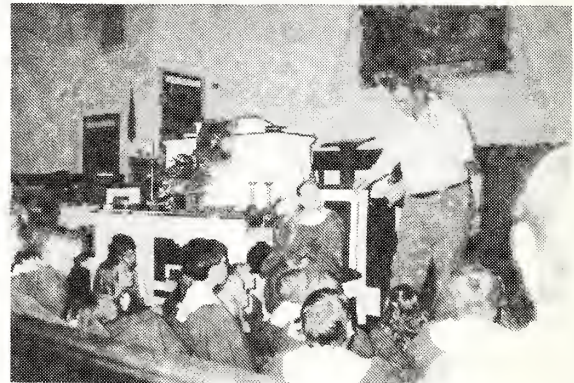
Celebrating Sunday School

by Mary Dudley, Director of the Sunday School Ministry

Excitement was in the air on Sunday, September 29, 1996 at Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church at Ernul, NC. As I walked up to the church, there were rumors about the pastor, the Rev. Joe Ratcliffe, preaching from the roof. In order to do this, the people were hoping for 200 in attendance during the Sunday school hour. As folks began arriving, hopes were very high. Many happy children came with parents and grandparents accompanied by the invited. The Sunday school hour drew to a close after the classes and it was realized that the goal was not quite reached THIS TIME. However, the spirit of worship and celebration remained high as the worship hour progressed in a service to promote growth in Sunday school. During the service, all Sunday school teachers, assistants, volunteers and students were recognized for their interest in growing the Kingdom of God through the study of the word. After the service, the congregation moved outside to release balloons with a Sunday school message from the church. While the goal of 200 people was not quite reached, there were 128 folks in Sunday school and 175 plus in the worship hour. I was honored to be in attendance at such a fine celebration of joy about Sunday school. Keep up the good work Macedonia and let's get the pastor on the roof next time!



Left to right — Jimmy Spruill, Mary Dudley, Joe Ratcliffe, Milton Miller



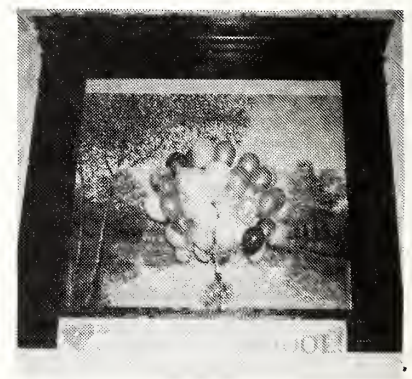
Greg Miller leading the Children's Message



The children singing with all their heart.



Releasing the balloons.



Sunday School Rally Day 1996



WE DON'T HAVE FOREVER

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God called me..."
(Philippians 3:14, New International Version).

What Is Your Destination

Shortly after retiring from the office of president of Mount Olive College, I was walking across the campus during a holiday period when a security officer called me to halt and approached me with two questions: "Who are you and what is your destination?"

It was easy to answer the questions for the security officer: showing her my identification, I replied, "I am taking my daily walk." Answering these questions for myself, however, has required more thought.

"What is my designation?" This question is one we have to address not once but throughout life. As a teenager, I answered this question when I accepted God's call into the Christian ministry. It was a calling that led me into the pastoral ministry and later into Christian higher education.

The major difference in answering that question then and now is time. Fifty years ago I thought I had forever to do my work and reach my goals; now, I know that time is of the essence.

Purpose and Goals for Senior Citizens

Nothing gives more meaning to life than the belief that we are here for a purpose — an on-going purpose. If people ever feel that they have outlived their purpose, their joy and zest for life is over. The Apostle Paul was a senior citizen and in prison when he wrote, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God called me." Neither age nor unfavorable circumstances could blind him to the vision he believed God had for his life. "I press on," was the life-long mode of Paul's life.

Whenever we are on our pilgrimage in life — just embarking on our careers, at the summit of our achievements, or in retirement — we need to repeatedly ask: "What is my destination?" We are never too old to check our direction. It goes without contradiction that we are happiest when we are engaged in a work that is meaningful and fulfilling.

If we do not keep before us fresh and clearly established goals, the routine and emergencies of daily living will absorb us. The challenge is to keep in perspective what we believe is God's purpose for our life and to establish appropriate goals

for the fulfillment of that purpose.

While no one can set our personal goals for us, there are some guiding principles that can be helpful. What are our major unfulfilled aspirations? Are there unexpressed debts of gratitude we owe to certain people for the contributions they have made to our lives? Is there something we would like to do for God and humanity that will speak for us beyond our years on earth? The fact that we are still living means that we have not yet completed God's missions for our lives.

The Clock Is Running

The task of determining our purpose and establishing goals for the remainder of our years is three-fold. First, we have to define our purpose so that it is clear and firm in our minds. If there is no sense of purpose or commitment to its fulfillment, it may mean that our relationship with God is losing its vitality. It is out of a vital relationship with God that we attain spiritual maturity, a maturity that gives us peace, strength and direction.

Second, to fulfill a meaningful purpose, we must establish definite and achievable goals. Since time may not permit us to accomplish all of our uncompleted agenda, our goals have to be prioritized and target dates set.

Our goals represent our plan of action, and it is best to put them in writing. If our goals are vague and if we do not put them in a time frame, they will be like floating clouds — just hanging there until they go away. For example, if there are people we want to thank, we should proceed with our contacts. These people will not be here forever; in fact, it may already be too late for some of them.

Third, we must act — move forward toward accomplishing our goals. There are three ways to measure time: by the clock, by the calendar and by our mortality. Regardless of our age, the clock of life is running, and whatever we plan to do, it is time to do it. We don't have forever.

1996 (Vol. 2, No. 1) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP CRISIS TODAY

by David Charles Hansley

"...as the clay is in the potter's hand — so are we"

Jeremiah 18:6

I remember when I was in grammar school and our teacher had finished reading a story. Following the story she gave each of us some molding clay and asked that we mold something representing the story. When I received my clay, it was dry and hard. Until the clay was softened, I could not mold it.

Today we are in a leadership crisis in the church, because, we, the clay, have become dry and hard.

Our leadership crisis stems from the fact that we really do not understand the consecrated life. To understand total consecration one must:

- Know the fear of God
- Know the love of God
- Be devoted to God

These three constitute TOTAL CONSECRATION. You could call this developed discipleship.

Once we comprehend TOTAL CONSECRATION, then the molding for a leadership vessel will come into focus, remembering, that NO CHURCH GROWS ANY HIGHER THAN ITS LEADERSHIP.

When brooding over the feeling that the clay is dry and hard, then we will lack in:

- A. High standards for spiritual development of ourselves.
- B. Goals that are not truly clear. When did we envision the Church as a growing, caring, ministering, and enthusiastic movement of believers?
- C. Stewardship, servanthood, and discipleship enough to constitute an agenda for following our true mission statement.
- D. Ministers who set forth an importance in Evangelism for *out-reach* and *in-reach*, whereby, the followers will have high expectations in faith sharing.
- E. The positive power of prayer.
- F. Our task of expanding the church and ministering. Our churches have become non-effective and empty.
- G. Taking the role given to us as ministers, thus providing no central person to guide the church. When the authority figure does not exist, the church will flounder, never becoming the active force for the cause of Christ it could be. The result of such lackadaisical leadership will be missed blessings.

H. Creating an image in the community.

I. Challenging the congregation to change its pace and style.

J. Being won to the cause of Christ. To be won to the cause, people will:

- Give their life
- Give their soul, mind, and strength.
- Give their all and in all.
- Be saved/born again.
- Understand commitment, loyalty, and devotion.
- Have structured Biblical standards for living out the Holy Life.
- Be involved in the Church.
- Constantly be concerned about the effectiveness of the Gospel.
- Have a desire for obtaining Biblical knowledge.
- Have a willingness to lay down their nets.
- Constitute a compassion for the lost.
- Have a church growth and church planting attitude and determination.
- Desire to be molded by the master potter.

Remember — To moisten the clay, we need a breath of the Holy Spirit breathed upon us. Then one will be softened and molded by the potter into a leader.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

David Charles Hansley

Wife: Sylvia McLamb Hansley

Children: Cynthia and Phil

Education: Mount Olive College, Barton College. Further study with the Chrysler School for Management, Moody Bible Institute, the Church Growth Institute out of Pasadena, California; Robert Morris College, Pennsylvania; the Washington, DC Round Table on Evangelism.

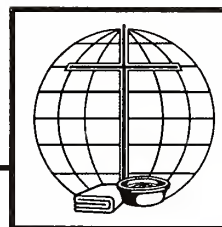
Ministry: Ordained minister for 33 years. Pastored for 26 years. Currently serves as Director-Treasurer of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism for the Convention of OFWB. Served as General Secretary of the Convention of OFWB. Two terms as President of the Convention of OFWB. Former moderator of Eastern Conference of OFWB. Currently a member of the Eastern Conference Examining Board for Ministers.

Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



A BOLD STEP

The Executive Committee took a bold step when they moved the office of Executive Administrator to full-time. The work load of the office demanded someone to give full attention to administering the work of the Convention. The Committee members also knew that it would require more money than was currently being contributed by our churches. They initiated some steps to increase funding for the office and made arrangements for a line of credit with Church Finance Association.

The Executive Committee is convinced that as people see the work of the office expand to serve the needs of our churches and pastors, they will increase their contributions. In an act of faith, coupled with sound planning, we drew on the line of credit this year. The budget and financial planning reflect the decision made by the Executive Committee. It is not that unusual for businesses to begin with some borrowed funds for start-up. While the office is not completely new, it is relatively new and is facing new challenges. We believe that we must respond to the needs of our constituent members.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In 1993, the Executive Committee established a challenge of \$5 per active member for each local church. The challenge was presented to each local church in the form of a letter. We know that every church will not meet the challenge but each church is encouraged to do so. We continue to send letters to each church with a record of contributions and the challenge for the upcoming year.

At a meeting with the heads of all of our ministries held in 1994, there was discussion of support for the work of the Executive Administrator. Since the Executive Administrator represents all of the ministries and promotes each of them,

it was decided that they would "reimburse" the Convention for the promotional work done by the Executive Administrator in the amount of 15/100 of one percent of funding provided by Original Free Will Baptist churches to the ministries. The idea was approved by the Executive Committee on April 25, 1995,

The mission of the people of God called Original Free Will Baptists is to glorify God; therefore, we strive to know Christ, build His church, and make Him known to all people as we continue to seek His will.

and reported to the Convention that same year. The request for support is made to ministries on an annual basis.

In 1982, the Convention, in an effort to establish a Headquarters, leased space from the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and in turn subleased the space to the ministries that could locate within the Headquarters. On two different occasions, the Convention has expanded and remodeled the space leased to provide additional offices and a more conducive work environment. The Executive Committee is currently negotiating with the Press for additional space.

In the past, the Convention has only requested reimbursement for the lease charge made by the Press from those locating at the Headquarters. The Convention bore the cost of the renovations and basic services provided in the shared office environment. In light of the need for better fiscal responsibility, we are now asking the residents of the Headquarters to pay rent based on square footage of offices and to pay a service fee to assist with the cost of operating a shared office complex. While the charge has increased the cost for the ministries located at the Headquarters, the amount

charged remains reasonable when placed in the context of a central location for denominational work.

We have also encouraged individuals to contribute to the Convention. An emphasis has been placed on the support of the local church before providing any contribution to the Convention. There are many individuals who can and would like to support the work of this office (mailing address: Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513).

Finally, the Executive Committee approved a fund raiser for the Convention which will be held in the spring of 1997.

The fund raiser will be coupled with a major training event and called "Spring Stretch." The fund raiser will involve a sponsored walk. Individuals — young and old — made a contribution by obtaining sponsors for their walk. Most of the money raised will come from members or friends of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. We know that many churches are doing all they feel is possible for them to do at this time and the walk will provide a *fun* way to increase our base of support.

SERVICES

I am convinced that the future of this office is intricately woven to the services that we provide to our constituency. The Convention will only be as strong as its member churches. I believe that our churches and ministers are looking to us to provide the tools and resources that they need to do the work of ministry. As a former pastor, I know that the local church is the heartbeat of any denomination. The Headquarters is not a place to formulate orders and to wield power --it must become a center where Original Free Will Baptists can find the help that they need to fulfill their mission!

Spring Stretch - A Day to Work-out Heart, Mind, and "Soles"

Activities Include...

"A Walk" for the Convention • Workshops and Seminars
Games and Activities for All Ages • A Closing Worship Experience

Workshop Leaders Include...

George Reser

George will lead a workshop on stewardship (for pastors only). Pastor of Columbia City Church of God, Columbia City, Indiana, he and his wife Jane served as missionaries to Haiti for six years. He has studied extensively in the areas of stewardship and leadership. George is no stranger to Original Free Will Baptists, having spoken at the Convention in years past.

Donna Brandt

Donna will speak to youth leaders. Her vocational background includes being an elementary school teacher, teacher of junior and senior high behavior-disordered students, youth director, associate in youth ministry, and director of special events for Group Publishing. Five years ago, she founded Reach Ministries, along with two other individuals. (Reach conducts workcamps for junior and senior high students. Donna coordinated and directed the workcamps, and wrote all the devotional and program materials.) She recently joined the ministry team at Columbia City Church of God and serves as director of youth ministries.

Mount Olive College Campus - April 5,,1997

Fall Festival

Saturday, November 16th • 6:30 PM
at

Black Jack FWB Church • Family Life Center

Come out and join the fun!

Something for the whole family!

- Supper provided
- Children's games
- Hay ride
- Bake Shop
- Country Store
- Gospel Music
- Pony rides
- Christmas Store
- Homemade bread

Call 752-6485 for further information

Editor's Note

Dear Church Family,

October officially brings the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall. And, so is my time at the Free Will Baptist Press. At the end of October, I will end one chapter of my life and start another. My sincere thanks goes to each person and all of the churches which has supported me over the past years.

I take with me many memories and friendships that I will never forget. To Mr. Gray, Robert, Bobby, Lexine, Jerry, Paul, Ronnie, Randy, Darren, Sheila, Mary Ann, Julie, Faye, Wallie, Trish, Lillian, Nina, Virginia and Sharon, and the Board of Directors: Thanks for putting up with me and making work easier and enjoyable. May God keep each of you in His watchful care as you have done me.

In His Service,

Jacy U

The Free Will Baptist Press is currently seeking an individual to fill the position of Editor. If you are interested and meet the following requirements, please send your resumé to Cliff Gray, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513.

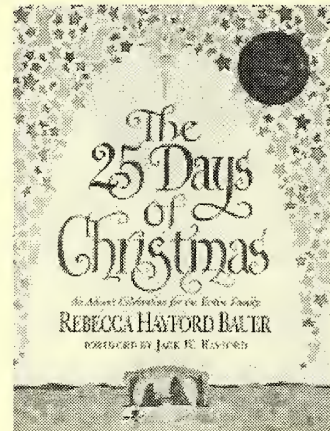
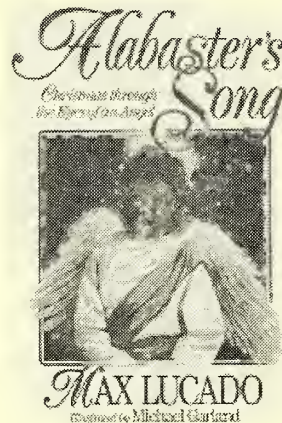
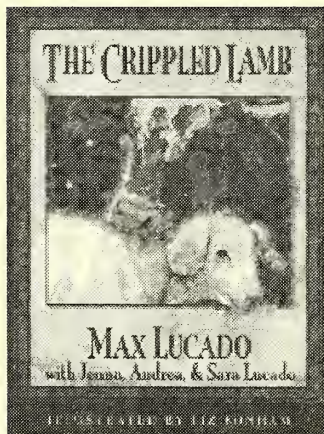
The successful candidate must be a Christian and a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church. The position requires knowledge of the Free Will Baptist polity and doctrine as well as a four-year degree, preferably in English or Journalism.

Resumés will be accepted through November 15, 1996.

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The Free Will Baptist

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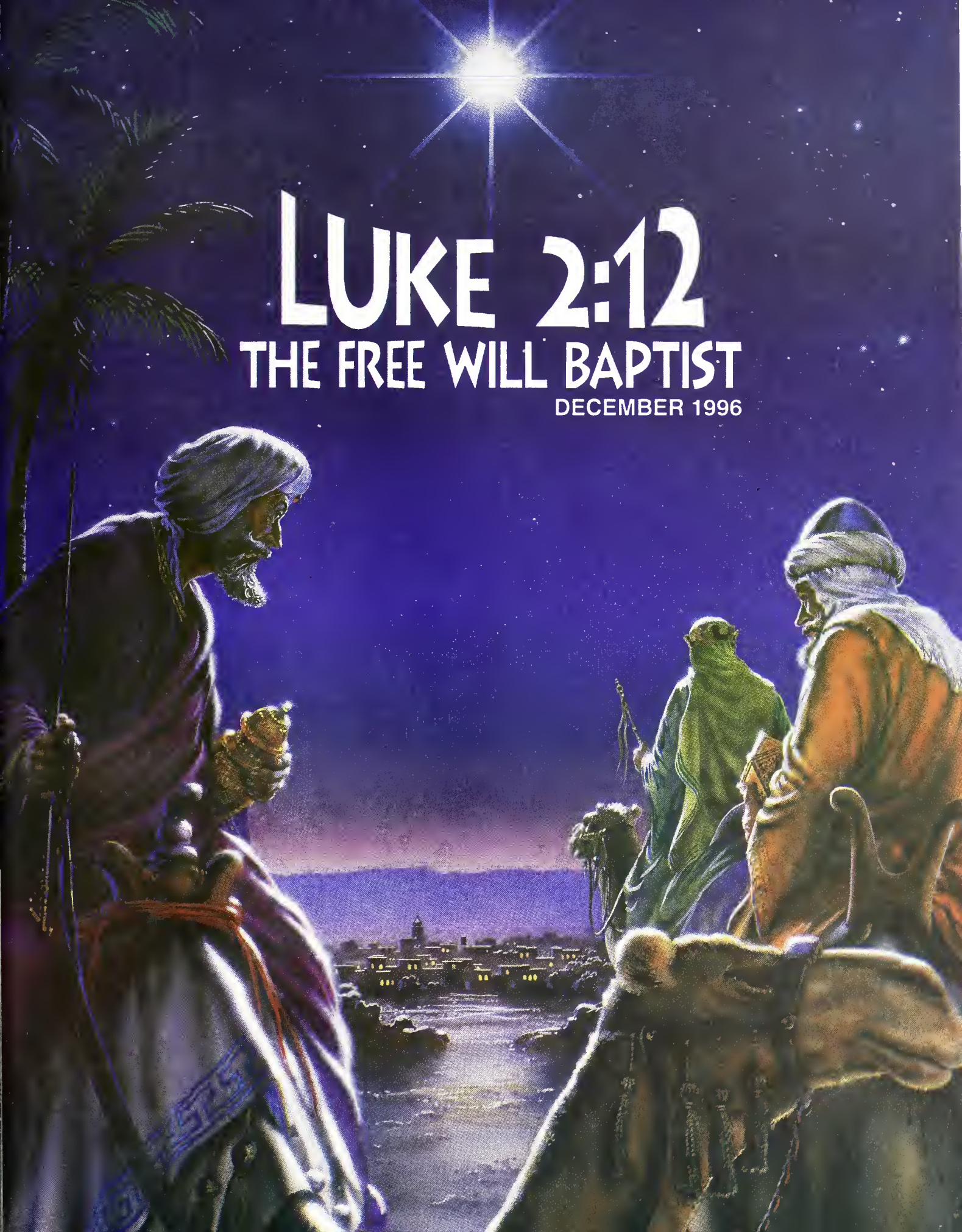
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LUKE 2:12

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

DECEMBER 1996

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NEXT MONTH

January Is
Retirement Ministry
Month

December Is
Foreign Missions
Month

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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DECEMBER IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

The month of December is marked by the celebration of the Birth of Our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Giving is a natural part of the Christmas celebration. Please remember Foreign Missions in your Christmas giving. **We need an exceptionally good month, financially, during December. Funding from July–November has been approximately 33% below our budgeted needs.**

Your gift this month will assure the continued proclamation of the gospel by our workers in the Philippines, India, Nepal, Eastern Europe, and Mexico.

God bless each of you with a most blessed Christmas from the Board of Foreign Missions and your family of workers around the world.

Board of Foreign Missions
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD THE FOREIGN MISSIONS DIRECTOR IN YOUR CHURCH?

CURRENT FIELD NEWS AVAILABLE

I have visited every Free Will Baptist field during the past four months and have current information that every church needs to hear. I would welcome an opportunity to visit your church in 1997. I have many dates open and would like to fill my calendar, so I can plan my schedule for 1997.

There is no charge for my visit. As a supporter of the Foreign Missions Program, you deserve to know what is going on in the Philippines, India, Nepal, Eastern Europe, and Mexico. One of the best ways to be informed is to invite the Director.

I have a complete set of new slides that you have not seen. Call today! Harold Jones, 919–746–4963 office or 919–756–9732 home.

THE JONESES VISIT INDIA AND NEPAL

Submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall

It was a delight to have the Rev. Harold Jones, Director-Treasurer, Board of Foreign Missions and his wife, Mrs. Sandra Jones, amidst us October 7-23, 1996. Our people were really excited to meet with them and derived tremendous blessings and inspiration with their participation among the congregations, schools, and the church convention held at Bareilly October 7-12, 1996 with a record attendance of 108 ministers, deacons, and the laymen. Their visit to India at this event was in fact risky as the Dengue epidemic was taking toll of life in the areas they had visited in India. Christianity is faith and sharing, making Him known to others and caring for their needs. They had indeed fulfilled His vision!

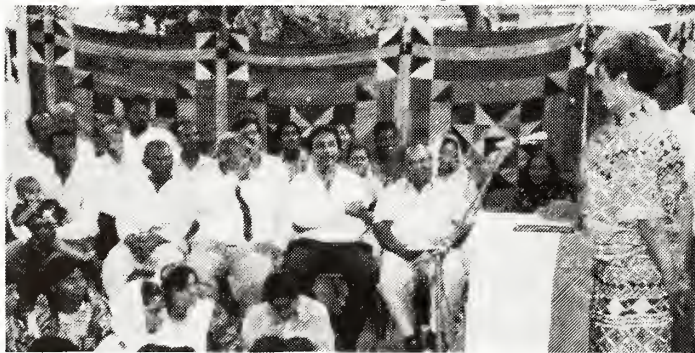
The Joneses had a very hectic schedule as they were itinerated to maximum places within a minimum span of time. There was not a single day that they could relax. I am glad that they kept pace with the arranged program and never grumbled though I know they were worn out. However, a great purpose was achieved with their visit for the Glory of God.

I am avoiding rewriting places they visited in India and Nepal as it would become lengthy. I may state that they had been to three states in India — Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh — besides being in the Western part

of Nepal dedicating schools, delivering messages in the churches, inspecting open air schools and the work we do and that needs to be done in the future. They spent two full days, October 10-11, in the church convention for India and Nepal. The Rev. Jones brought the message and Mrs. Sandra Jones described the work of Women's Auxiliaries in North Carolina supporting work in India and Nepal. They covered a total journey of 2055 miles by road.

The visit of Dr. Donald Ribeiro from North Carolina was too exciting being of the first kind, examining patients of acute long sickness at the Palwal Hospital in the State of Haryana, diagnosing diseases, prescribing medicines to 103 patients in two half days, October 14 & 15. He also examined me and my wife who has a heart problem and conferred with her doctor suggesting the treatment she needed. He visited some schools and preached in some churches in India and Nepal before he left for home on October 22, 1996.

As we met these people, we saw the light of the Lord in them inasmuch as they carry the burden of the Cross in far away lands in desperate need of peace, goodwill, and salvation in these two countries.



Congregation at Dakshinpuri, New Delhi



Ribbon cutting FWB Primary School, Bhikaripur, District Pilibhit



Congregation at Rudrapur



Dr. Don Ribeiro examining a patient at the Palwal Hospital

PEOPLE WITH A FUTURE

by Lydia van der Plas

There is a lot of violence in our world. People on all continents are filled with anger, anarchism, aggression, and hatred. Many live by the moment, fed by bad music, television, newspaper, magazines, etc. Stability and responsibility to one another are lost in the egocentrism of individuals. On the other side, people group together to express their anger in rioting and demonstrations. Many of the older generation blame the youth, but who really cares for them?

Our young people are told about the Holocaust, the death camps of Nazi Germany. They know about the millions of Jews and Gypsies who were murdered. But what is happening in their time? They see the same thing happening in Cambodia, Ruanda, Bosnia, Chechenia; the modern word for genocide is now "ethnic cleansing." Many young children are even forced to participate in rebellion. All people, young and old, long for freedom, security, love, and righteousness. All people want a future.

I read a book about a famous Dutch reporter, a "flipped" Roman Catholic, who said, "All along as mankind populated the world there has been only one person who loved, taught, and lived righteousness without seeking any honor for himself; no secret transactions, no hidden hate. This was Jesus of Nazareth." I thought, what a pity that this reporter could not take the last definite step and believe that Jesus is the Holy Son of God, the example for every human being, who gave Himself for people whose only future should be to be lost into all eternity? In Him alone there is a way to our Creator, only by Him we have a future and the knowledge that our life on earth is only the start of eternal life.

What an emptiness and despair there is in the world. How busy is Satan in destroying wherever and whatever he can. The Word of God is full of warnings. The prophets and apostles were, and actually still are, His messengers. His Word makes us strong as we have to grow in the grace and knowledge of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is our future; for you, me, children, grandchildren and for all His children. Growing in knowledge and grace by praying together, for one another, by reading and teaching His Word in our homes. Praise the Lord that we are able to spread this Good News, even in difficult situations, for **He is already with us!** "...And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world..." (Matthew 28:20b).

COTTAGE PRAYER MEETING

IN MARANATHA

by Edna Ontong

"Bear ye one another's burdens..." Galatians 6:2a. This is a very important part of Christian activity, and that is what the Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church is holding for all of its members.

These cottage prayer meetings are being held year around. Each household member, specifically the couple, will select what month and day their Cottage Prayer Meeting will be held. Often times they will select an important or memorable day of their loved ones, like birthdays, anniversaries and others.

These services are held at night since this is the time when everybody can participate. They bring their children and sometimes close friends. It is an informal gathering. There is singing, reading, and exhortation from the Word of God. There are also some testimonies or a sharing time which helps to strengthen others. Prayer requests are given and prayed for. If a special occasion falls on that date, greetings and prayer for the celebrant will be rendered. The last part is eating together, which

is also enjoyed by all. Everyone enjoys the fellowship so much that even after two hours, they are not tired or bored.

Please pray for the Maranatha Church that it may point others to the Saviour.



COMMEMORATING THE WORK OF THE LORD

by Rosana Briones

As children of God we commemorate the work of the Lord through the Lord's Supper, Washing of the Saint's Feet, and especially the Easter Sunrise Service. The brethren from Liwanag FWB Church, Jesus Christ Our Saviour Fellowship, Jezreel FWB Church and the Puerto Princesa FWB Church joined together for the Easter Sunrise Service held at Hartman Beach. We arrived at 4 o'clock in the morning and brought food for a time of fellowship. This was enjoyed by everyone.

A Baptism was conducted for Maribeth Franco. This was followed by our Worship Service. The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo and Faith Perocillo were speakers for the occasion.

As co-workers in the Lord, please pray for our brethren in the Philippines.



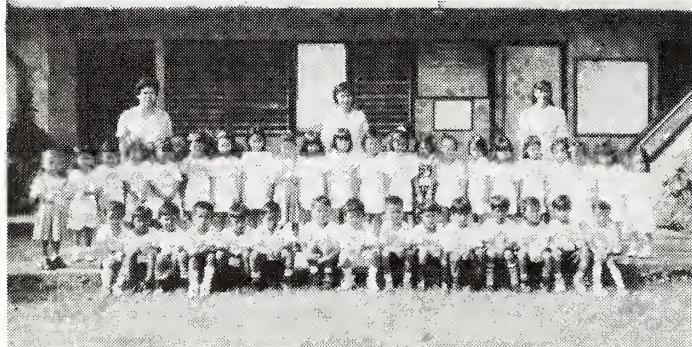
"Commemorating the work of the Lord."

MINISTERING TO THE LITTLE ONES

by Loida Samones

The Free Will Baptist Learning Center classes officially opened on June 13, 1996. This is the fourth year of operation. God has entrusted us with 10 pupils for the Nursery, 19 in Kinder I, and 23 in Kinder II. This is a total of 52 pupils for this school year. The following teachers are working with these children, Marvie Flores, Nursery; Loida Samones, Kinder I; and Adelia Cuba, Kinder II. We try our best to teach these children, not only academically, but our main goal is to motivate them to learn about Christ personally. One program we have is a visitation ministry, wherein the parents are our contacts for Bible Study and witnessing.

This is not an easy task. It requires patience and love. We ask you to pray for this ministry and for the teachers who have committed themselves to train these children. Our theme verse is, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



PUERTO PRINCESA

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

The Puerto Princesa Free Will Baptist Church conducted its Twenty-third Anniversary last July 29, 1996. The Lord is blessing our church, and we praise Him for this. Three children were dedicated to the Lord during the service. The Reverend Antonio Samones, Jr. is the pastor.



Annual Homecoming At Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church Grifton, North Carolina

by Joyce Brock

The annual Homecoming was held at Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church, Grifton, NC, October 20, 1996, with a record attendance of 80.



Rev. and Mrs. Eldon Brock

The Reverend Eldon Brock, Pastor, delivered a very inspiring message on Christ and Heaven.

Following the morning worship, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and time of fellowship. Later there was special singing by various groups of the

mission/church.

During the past three years we have grown numerically, financially, and spiritually.

We offer Sunday school, Sunday morning and evening worship services, layman's league, ladies' auxiliary and are in the process of establishing a youth program.



Scene from Bible school

We have enjoyed many activities which have helped us to grow closer in love and harmony. They have included the Bible school, monthly birthday suppers, valentine parties, Easter sunrise service followed by breakfast, senior citizen suppers, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, yard sales, Shad Festival activities, Christmas caroling, layman's league, and ladies' auxiliary parties, visits to rest homes and other shut-ins.

Financially, we have been blessed. Our indebtedness has been greatly reduced by making two payments a month.

Much has been done to improve our church building, such as painting the outside, replacing the large front window, erecting a new sign, recovering the pulpit chairs, placing seasonal floral arrangements in the sanctuary, and obtaining communion ware, a new piano, and a much-needed refrigerator. A lot of yard work and landscaping has been completed. We thank everyone who has helped make these improvements, and all who have helped financially.



New sign designed and given by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Williams



New Window

Even though we have grown in many aspects, the greatest growth has been the new families that have become a part of our work and the new converts that have found our Lord as Saviour.

There are some areas where improvement is needing our attention. They are the Sunday school and youth ministries.

Both of these are vitally important for the future growth of our mission/church.

Please continue to pray and support our Home Mission Churches and our Home Missionaries, that our work will bring honor and glory to God, to whom we give thanks for all things.

OPPORTUNITIES WILL DETERMINE OUR DIRECTION

We can plant a church in any direction because the opportunities are available.

God has truly blessed and guided the direction of Home Missions & Evangelism for two and one-half decades to open doors on the home front for Touching Lives For A Lifetime.

Today this ministry affords Original Free Will Baptists the privilege of following the "Great Commission" through each of our endeavors. They are: Church Planting, Ethnic Missions, Deaf Missions, Spanish Missions, Church Growth, Discipleship Training, Mobile Ministry, Scouting, and Harvest Covenant.

We are asking you and your church to take this ministry seriously that we may Grow His Church.

As the board of Home Missions and Evangelism has developed its theme "EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM," we allowed the issues of evangelism to be-

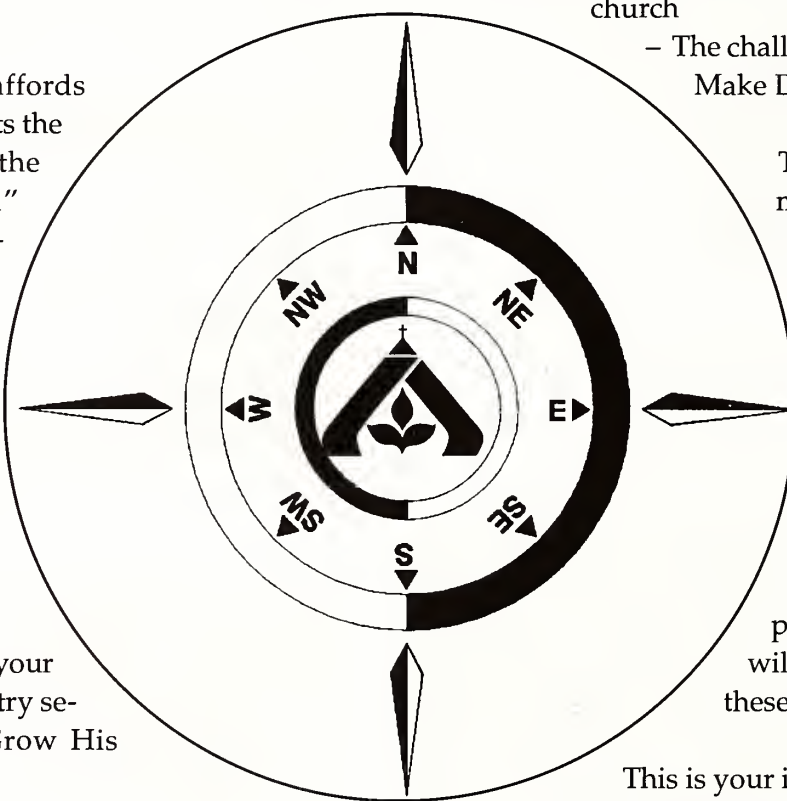
come our determined efforts. We encourage you and your church to join with us in:

- A renewed compassion for the lost
- An awareness of the uniqueness of Christ
- Developing faith with power
- Remembering God's intended purpose for His church
- The challenge by Christ to "Go and Make Disciples"

To accomplish this, we must rediscover the boldness, zeal and power of the Early Church.

We need every Original Free Will Baptist to become concerned about the issues of evangelism on the home front. Only as you and your church support us prayerfully and financially will we together accomplish these goals for Christ.

This is your invitation to participate in one of the most rewarding ministries of our church. By participating, you will help plant churches and "EXPAND HIS KINGDOM." Help us continue our voyage and direction of reaching people.

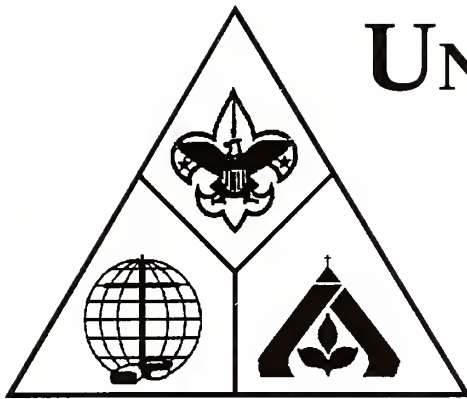


Our rapidly changing society is thrusting upon *our church* the task of developing a stronger ministry of EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM.

HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

Phone: (919) 746-4963



UNITED IN SERVICE

The future of America will be determined by the boys and youth of today.

Original Free Will Baptists are concerned that young people develop into moral and responsible citizens. We further believe that this objective can best be accomplished through the influence and teaching of the Christian faith.

Because of these convictions Original Free Will Baptists have assumed the responsibility to endorse and support Scouting with a Christian emphasis in every Original Free Will Baptist Church. The Scouting program shall include all the boys and youth of the community.

We feel this is essential and expedient to the ongoing work of the Kingdom of God.

Scouting offers a church:

- A program for youth tailored to the local church and administered by the church.
- A youth evangelism approach for reaching, teaching, and training youth and thus strengthening the church.
- A program that challenges men to take responsible action on behalf of youth in the church and community.

- A cooperative program in which the church, school, and home work together.
- Effective leadership training for men who will guide youth of the church in the Scouting program.
- Helpful and up-to-date literature and program aids for leaders.
- Service and counsel from professional and volunteer Scout leaders (available to every community).
- The assistance of a local council service center functioning as a clearinghouse and as the agent for cooperative effort to all organizations operating Scouting units in the community.

Scouting,

A Resource for the Church

The church has become deeply concerned about providing a program under Christian leadership that reaches into a youth's own world to guide his conduct and mold his character as he engages in leisure time activities.

Churches are finding that the Boy Scouts of America offers such a program. Scouting is an ideal resource available to churches to complement

or expand their work in a multifaceted ministry of youth.

The Boy Scout Charter Concept: You Make the Decisions

The Boy Scouts of America charters organizations with similar goals to operate the Scouting program. These organizations use the program to establish their own Scouting youth groups or strengthen existing youth groups with the many resources that Scouting provides.

Your church controls the program content, membership, leadership, and any religious requirements within the basic context of the Scout Oath and Law. You decide how often the group or groups meet.

You designate and supervise the leaders. You decide whether to restrict the Scouting membership to your own members or to open membership to the general community. Scouting works with you to further your goals and strengthen your youth programs.

**For more information
contact your Scouting
Commission for Original
Free Will Baptist: PO Box
39, Ayden, NC 28513 or
Phone: (919) 746-4963**

A New Vision

Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry

In recent years Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes has labored under severe financial problems. We are not completely debt-free, but our debt is much smaller and more manageable. We hope that we can now begin to expand our scope of ministry. The Board has approved a proposal to work toward changing from retirement homes to retirement ministry. We are not abandoning either our residents, or a program of providing housing, but we do want to provide a broader ministry to our Original Free Will Baptists, especially those who are of retirement age. We have a new executive director who is available to go to your Church to share with you about your Retirement Ministry. Also, he will be available to provide reference sources and programs, study courses and workshops about aging and its special needs.

In the United States of America today there are 31 million people over the age of 65, and an estimated 15 million people who are caring for an aged parent. The over 65 age group is growing at twice the rate of the general population, with the over 85 segment growing faster than the 65 - 85 segment. We must minister to the retired / retiring people.

Resource and Reference or Where to Find Help

In addition to our own program, retirement ministry can now provide referral resources to more than 30 different agencies where you can find help in your needs either as a senior adult or the adult child of an aging parent who needs help.

New Hope — New Vision

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director of Retirement Homes earnestly desire your help in the form of ideas and suggestions for improved ministry. We do not promise to adopt any specific idea, but we do want and need input from every interested Free Will Baptist. As has already been mentioned in this article, the program is diligently working to increase the ministry to retired persons and their families, so if you see a need or have a suggestion please send it to the Executive Director at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters.

Caring For An Aging Parent

Your retirement ministry can now offer a day-long workshop dealing with the issues of caring for an aging parent. It will deal with several different but related topics. This workshop is a combination of video and discussion sessions to help both the person who is aging and the children who will be faced with the responsibility of providing the care. The main emphasis of this program is to follow the wishes of the senior adult as much as is possible.

None of us relishes thinking, much less talking, about the death of our parents (our parents are not fond of it either), but it is going to happen. A fear for many is that the dying process will be long and painful both for the senior and beloved family members. Death cannot be avoided, but it and its preceding problems can be faced in a manner to ease much of the discomfort, uncertainty and fear. The workshop **Caring For Aging Parents** can help.

Other issues that are dealt with include:

- Housing Alternatives
- Support Services
- Nursing Homes
- Medical and Health Issues
- Legal Issues (no legal advice)
- Finance
- Insurance
- Government Programs
- Death and Dying
(Dealing with grief)

Original Free Will Baptist



Retirement Ministry



THE CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM

Our denomination is well over two hundred and fifty years old, and each of us recognizes that we have not reached this point alone. Throughout the years we have been served by men and women whose determination, commitment, and zeal have helped to shape us and direct us. We especially recall the ministers whose service to God has brought us to where we are today.

Many of these men are still working hard in their capacity as pastors, but there are some who, because of advancing years of disability, are no longer able to attend the meetings, conferences, and conventions as they did in years past. Because we do not see them as often as before, there is the danger that we may forget them and the work they have done.

In an effort to acknowledge their work and years of service, the Minister's Program began the Christmas Cheer Program over three years ago. Christmas is a special time of the year and each of us knows the joy of receiving cards and greetings from friends and family. So every Christmas we send greetings and a gift of \$100 to each minister age 75 and older.

The greetings are not just from the Minister's Program but from every church and organization in our denomination. We remind them how much we appreciate their years of service, and we share with them a gift that is based on the generosity of God's people — you, the church.

The response from the ministers has been gracious and heartwarming, and they express thanks and appreciation for having been thought of and remembered during this time of year.

Perhaps your church or organization would like to be a part of this program. If so, we encourage you to send a gift to:

The Minister's Program, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Be a part of this special program and show how much you care.

MINISTER'S WIDOW FUND Notice

The Reverend James Helms died recently and his widow received the proceeds of the fund. All ordained ministers should have received a notice. The previous notice mailed was for the Reverend John Woodrow Byrd. If you did not receive your notice, please check your address with the Convention Office in Ayden. The number is 919-746-4963. Michelle Fordham will be able to assist you and make certain that your address is current in the system.

If you would like to check your participation, please leave a message at the Convention Office, and I will be happy to contact you with that information.

Thank You,
Donald Fader



News From...

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

DR. W. BURKETTE RAPER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY

More than 200 friends, family and colleagues gathered at Mount Olive College on Saturday, Oct. 26, with Dr. W. Burkette Raper and his wife, Miss Rose, to celebrate his 50 years of Christian ministry.

The celebration began with a service of thanksgiving in Rodgers Chapel and was followed by a luncheon in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive campus.

Dr. Raper's life and contributions were chronicled by his friends and family during the service attended by leaders and members of Free Will Baptist churches throughout eastern North Carolina.

Dr. Raper's son, the Rev. Burke Raper, Jr., an accomplished organist, opened the service with a prelude. Moments later he explained the reasons for his selections, that of "rejoicing in the messenger God has sent."

The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and pastor of Marsh Swamp FWB Church in Sims, gave the invocation. Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College and Dr. Raper's successor, gave welcoming remarks, and Mrs. Margie H. Matthews brought greetings from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex — a place where Dr. Raper spent eight years as a boy.

The Rev. James Earl Raper, Dr. Raper's brother and a retired FWB minister, read from Matthew 4:18-22 in which Jesus summons Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow Him and be "fishers of men."

The sermon, entitled "Hearing, Answering, Serving," was delivered by the Rev. Gary M. Bailey, Dr. Raper's son-in-law. He cited I Timothy and talked about God's calling Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, and Paul, and much later — some 50 years ago — a lanky teenager named Burkette Raper.

Mr. Bailey said that Dr. Raper was a minister who "served with all of his might," and described him as thorough, meticulous, and precise. He praised Dr. Raper as a person whose private life measured up to the respect and high regard he enjoyed as a public figure.

Mr. Bailey explained that the meaning of servitude is not well understood today. It means working harder and longer *serving others*, rather than *being served*. "This is the life of a minister," Bailey said, "and this was the life that Dr. Raper lived."

He went on to say that the true measure of a minister was how many lives he has changed and not the amount of money or the number of buildings he raised — of which Dr. Raper accomplished a great deal in both areas. Realizing that Dr. Raper served as pastor to no less than seven churches, as president of Mount Olive College for nearly 41 years, and is still active speaking, preaching, and ministering, Mr. Bailey speculated that Dr. Raper had touched many, many lives in meaningful ways.

"When God calls a man, He also calls the wife," Mr. Bailey said. He acknowledged Mrs. Rose Mallard Raper for the support that she "offered freely and with love" since their marriage on August 19, 1951.

A duet of Franck's "O Lord Most Holy" by the Rev. Hal Roach and Mrs. Sharon Pelt Roach and a solo of Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer" by Ms. Irene Weldon made the service especially memorable.

Dr. K. David Hines, the Rev. Fred Rivenbark, and Mrs. Carolyn F. Jernigan also participated in the service.

After the service, guests gathered for a buffet lunch and visiting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 1996

Thursday, Dec. 5 7:30 p.m. - Fall Concert
Mount Olive College Choir, Rodgers Chapel

Tuesday, Dec. 10 7:30 p.m. - "Christmas Pops"
by the North Carolina Symphony, College Hall
Tickets: \$26/adults; \$16/seniors and students.
Price includes May concert. Make checks payable to:
NC Symphony Wayne County Chapter,
Community Arts Council, 901 E. Ash St.,
Goldsboro, NC 27530 or call (919) 736-3300.

Thursday, Dec. 12 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Buffet
& Mount Olive Community Ensemble
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Reservation by Dec. 5. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6
for children. Call the College (919) 658-2502.

May 8, 1997 NC Symphony Spring Concert
Paramount Theatre in Goldsboro

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

HIGHER LEARNING • HIGHER STANDARDS • HIGHER VALUES

Christmas Buffet and Music

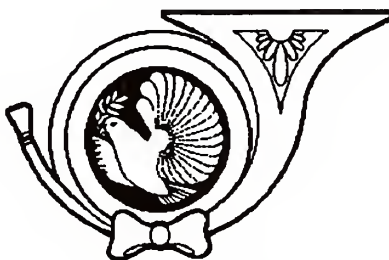
by the Mount Olive

Community Ensemble

Thursday, December 12 • 7:00 pm

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

For three years the Christmas Buffet has been a highlight of the Christmas season. Join us for a delicious dinner and a wonderful program of Christmas music.



Reservations are requested by December 5.

\$10.00 adults, \$6.00 children 12 and under (prices include beverage and tax).

For more information, contact The Office of Institutional Advancement at (919) 658-2502.

Clip and Mail to:

Christmas Buffet, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

_____ Yes, I will attend the Christmas Buffet. There will be _____ in my party and my check is enclosed for \$ _____ (\$10.00 per adult, \$6.00 per child). Checks should be made payable to Mount Olive College. Reserved seating will be available for parties of six or more.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

SEEK THE OLD PATHS

Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein ..." (Jeremiah 6:16).

One of the sad realities of the last decade of this century is the continuing persecutions in various countries around the world, especially in those countries where communism is still in control of those countries where the Islamic faith is the dominant religion. 1.7 billion Christians worldwide are a religious minority in 87 countries. Increasingly Christians are harassed, arrested, interrogated, fined, imprisoned, or killed because of their religious beliefs and practices, including spreading their faith, which is discouraged or outlawed by some governments.

In northern Laos, last year, provincial officials closed known Catholic and Protestant churches, forcing church leaders to sign affidavits promising not to engage in religious activities. In Cuba, popular pastor Orson Vila remains under house arrest for conducting services in his back yard. Kuwait is one of many nations where Christians are subject to religious discrimination and persecution.

Dr. Paul Marshall, senior fellow at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, said three very powerful forces are responsible for most of the persecution of Christians worldwide: resurgent communism, a religion-intolerant form of Islam, and reemerging nationalism. These forces see Christianity — especially evangelical Christianity — as a dangerous threat. Dr. Marshall states: "People believe influences such as evangelical Christianity are agents of foreign forces, which are undercutting who they are and what they believe."

In countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, conversion from Islam to any other religious faith may bring persecution, and in some cases (Iran), it is considered "apostasy," worthy of execution. In China, while there is a new openness to western economics, the communist government still keeps a tight rein on religion, and any Christian straying outside a strict set of regulations faces fines, police harassment, arrest, and in some cases, a lengthy stay in labor camps.

In these countries the churches assert moral values that these governments do not want to hear. The Christian tenets of human dignity and rights are ideas opposed to the communist authorities for it threatens their monopoly on absolute and unchecked political power.

Here in America, the church is facing a great battle! Satan will continue to use his influence through whatever means possible to suppress the church, its influence, and its message. As the clock counts down toward

the return of our Lord, Satan will become more desperate and will use whatever means he can find to stop the church and derail its mission. We see his evil hand in the crime and sins of America, even the burning of churches. He is waging a war of persecution abroad and at home in America. He is seeking to divide and destroy the church. He will not succeed if God's people will be a people of prayer and seek His redeeming and healing power for worldwide revival, and return to the "old paths" that led us to Calvary and a life of yielded consecration to Him, and seek to walk in His ways! Jeremiah's word from God to Israel is a call to repent and to return to the covenant made at Mt. Sinai, and to obey His Laws that He may bless her and preserve her as His people. That call is our call today to His Church — a call to return to Him and seek Him.

The newspaper headlines, news magazines, and evening news broadcasts keep us comfortably aware of the ills and ails of our country and world. A sense of hopelessness and despair has gripped many in the church and outside the church. Bishop Leslie Newbigin saw the emerging crisis of our time a decade ago and commented that we are witnessing a virtual disappearance of hope in Western culture. He comments further in the article "Wild Hope" that we see this lack of hope expressed in the cult groups such as Doom, a nonreligious apocalyptic group, predicting the imminent end of the world unless immediate and drastic action is taken to address environmental and economic problems.

Perhaps the words of Senator John Carey, in an address given at Yale University in 1992, give us a clear view of the dark prospects of America's future without some divine intervention and return to God.

Consider a different part of the reality of America today; a violent, drug-ridden, rat-infested reality; a reality in which the institutions of civilized social life have broken down; of disintegrating families; boarded-up storefronts; schools that have become armed camps and crack houses replacing community centers as the focus of neighborhood life.

I ask you to consider a reality where more than 80% of babies are born to single mothers; where young men die violently at a rate exceeding that of any American war; where only one child in three finishes high school and even then, too often, can barely read; where the spread of AIDS

and homelessness rifts so visibly at the fabric of community; where far too many families are on welfare for far too long, and where far too many children carry guns instead of lunch boxes to school. (*The Newark State Ledger*, April 5, 1992)

Confronted with persecution abroad, cultural disintegration internally in America, aided by the Hollywood movie industry that poisons the minds of our youth with the foul-mouth, violent (especially toward women), anti-family content of many modern films, the people of God, a people of Biblical hope, are desperately needed to be the "light of the world." It is the "people of God" who can seek the mighty power and presence of God and turn the forces of relentless secularism that appear to be striving to denounce the supernatural as irrelevant and meaningless.

It is the people of God who know the power of the crucified and risen Christ, who know the power of the Holy Spirit in His Pentecost Presence in the midst of the Church. Whenever the church is aroused and the world's wickedness arrested, somebody has been praying. If the secret history of all the true revivals and spiritual advance could be written and read, there would be found a list of intercessors who, like Samuel, Daniel, Elijah, Paul, Jonathan Edwards, William Carey, George Muller and Hudson Taylor, have been led to shut themselves in the secret place with God and have labored fervently in prevailing prayer.

Apart from great privileges and burdens in prayer, true revival does not come, as a study of religious history will soon disclose. God's great corrective and healing medicine is prayer: "Enter into thy closet." There in silence, secrecy, solitude, and seclusion, along with God, can the power and fire of revival be given birth.

We must have revival or America is in danger of becoming the enemy of Christianity as have so many other nations of the world. The revival we must have will be at the will and purpose of a wonderful God who will restore to our people and nation the fear and reverence

of His name. We must have a revival that will stop the flood tides of sin, the lawlessness and ungodliness that is swamping this nation and the world. We must have a revival that will restore the love of chastity, purity, and a moral conscience of our people.

Let all of God's people unite in earnest prayer and singleness of heart to God that He will visit us mightily with the Holy Spirit, transform our worship with joy at His Presence, set our hearts on fire, and break the stony hearts for lost souls. Let all of God's people unite and seek His face, confess our sins in repentance, and cause us to walk again with God, to separate ourselves from the world and to walk in His way. How we need to seek the "old paths" and walk in them, not merely because they are old, but because they are right, and they lead us to a Saviour who loved us and died for our sins and the sins of all humanity.

How we, as the people of God, need to come again to mighty, prevailing, intercessory prayer; not just the ordinary kind of praying, but praying that cannot and will not be denied, praying that will not let go until Heaven answers, and the fire of holiness and revival falls upon a desperate people.

What God has done in the past, He can do again! He has not changed. Whatever God has wrought in the past through His mighty power and in answer to the heart-cry of Christians who day and night beseech His throne, He can and will do again. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His work is still the same, His promises have not changed, and His might has not been lessened! His work and message to His people is very clear: "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

May God have mercy and grace upon us all as He calls us ever so tenderly to seek out the ancient paths that lead us to the Cross and to power of a risen, living Lord! Amen.

Helping Churches Grow...

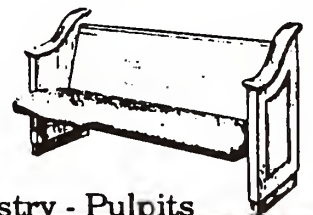
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Christmas Open House

at the

Bible & Bookstores

of

Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern



Saturday, December 7, 1996

with special store hours of 9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m. this day only!

Enjoy a refreshing atmosphere with light refreshments and **15% off** * purchases

* Does not include robes, hymnals, S.S. curriculum, or church supplies. Not valid on special orders or previously purchased items.



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From...

Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Dear Free Will Baptist Staff:

I am writing to you to thank you for your love and understanding during my stay. I appreciate everything you have done for me. It means a lot to me to know I have people who love and care about me without condition. I used to think I was a child waiting for someone to come along who loved me. Most of all, I want you to know I don't want to leave here, but my mom needs me now and I have to be there for her. I know she didn't have to have me, and she had options, like abortion or adoption, but she chose to go ahead and have me, so now it's my turn to take care of her needs.

I am going to miss each of you. I will never forget what you've done for me during my time at the FWB Children's Home. You have changed my life for the better, and I am grateful to you. Some kids haven't realized yet how much they have to be thankful for and how lucky they are to have someone to love and care for them, but I am sure one day they will see just how fortunate they really are.

I can remember a time I was taking everyone for granted and only concerned with making myself first, but then one day I realized if I continued to do the things I had been doing, I was only going to be hurting myself, and making things harder for myself. I feel I learned a very important lesson during this time, and I feel like I will always remember what I have learned.

I had some good times and some bad times, but the good outweighed the bad and my memories here will always be with me in my heart. One thing I have realized is JESUS loves me and the staff here loves me too.

I know sometimes your job gets really tough, especially when you think no one appreciates your efforts to help, but I know in my heart even though they may not say so, every kid appreciates the things you do for them.

Once again, I want to thank you for being here for me during some tough times in my life, and for caring for me through it all. I will cherish my last few days in my heart forever. I wish each of you and your families a very special CHRISTMAS and a great NEW YEAR.

I LOVE YOU ALL,
LISA

The above letter was written by Lisa, a fifteen-year-old resident at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home just before she left our care. We are proud of her and what she accomplished while she was in our care. You too can help share in a child's life by helping us provide for them during Christmas. You can help our children by becoming a Christmas Sponsor. Christmas Sponsors are important to our children, because it is such a tender time when love speaks so clearly through sharing. Every year we try to provide sponsors for the children in our care. Sponsors simply send \$100 for each child sponsorship. We need to receive Christmas Sponsorships as soon as possible to allow us time to complete our shopping. Won't you consider adding our special children to your Christmas list? If you would like to be a part of our sponsorship program send the Sponsorship Form and your \$100 contribution to: **The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Post Office Box 249, Middlesex, North Carolina 27557.**

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of Sponsorships: _____

NEWS... FROM CRAGMONT



nity table. There was always a musician available to help lead in singing. Some of the groups planned outings so that everyone could share time with each other. It was obvious how much time and effort group leaders put into planning their retreats.

clothes, mattresses, linens, books and time.

With each summer conference we see hundreds of youth come through but it would be impossible without Camp Directors and their volunteer staffs giving the

Cragmont is a Place about Giving

Christmas is always a reminder to us of the importance of giving. In the Christmas story we find our God

becoming human: not just an illusion of being human. According to Hebrews 4, He was tempted as we are tempted.

According to Philipians 2, Jesus gave up being God (all knowing, all powerful, all seeing) to place Himself into the care of a virgin, Mary and a frightened Jospheh with a big heart. The Philipians reference also says that we should have this same attitude concerning each other. God wants us to be wholistic in our giving.

Cragmont is seeking to be that kind of place.

With the fall groups we have seen various ways in which people have given. In many groups, folks brought baked goods and snacks, placing them on a *commu-*

During Club Weekend One, Wesley and Judy Rowe once again gave a pig (as well as some great hushpuppy mix!) for what is becoming a traditional Friday Pig-Pickin'. The Cragmont Staff gave time and planning into providing some programming during all the Club retreats. And though we celebrated the Club members and their giving, we are always mindful of those who give outside of the Club program: the After Jubilee fund, the monies raised for various projects around the campus, people leaving memorial gifts. We also remember those who give light bulbs (a traditional Woman's Auxiliary Conference gift), those who give blankets, towels and wash

time to make the conferences work and minister.

Cragmont is a place about giving. It is at the crux of everything that goes on here. Even in the vision of Cragmont becoming a conference center for our denomination, Cragmont will always remain a place where anyone touched by this ministry must be about the business of giving.

This Christmas, we encourage you to volunteer, minister, share, listen, love.

We encourage you to give.

Features

BRIDGE BUILDERS APPRECIATION DINNER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR SOCIETY

Dr. Pepper Worthington, Writer-in-Residence, Mount Olive College

"We appreciate *all* of you for what you do for Mount Olive College," said Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support for Mount Olive College. "Your \$100 unrestricted donation has helped build our college. We had 1517 Bridge Builders last year," she announced at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 28, 1996, in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College.



Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support for Mount Olive College, presided over the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 28, 1996, in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.



The little Rock Free Will Baptist Church Youth Choir, directed by Miss Cynthia Kennedy, provided special music for the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner.

MR. DENNIS BOSWELL, SOPHOMORE AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

"I knew I wanted to go to college when I graduated from high school," began Mr. Dennis Boswell from Victory Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson County. "I felt there was really no way I could go to college though," said Mr. Boswell. "I had average grades and both my parents did not have the money to pay my tuition at Mount Olive College," he reported.

"But I was told to check out Mount Olive College anyway," he continued. "When I toured the campus, everybody was friendly. With the help of scholarships and grants as well as the money from Bridge Builders I found myself here. Thank you" he concluded with a broad smile.



Mr. Dennis Boswell, a sophomore at Mount Olive College, spoke at the 1996 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS: THE VALUE OF A PIECE OF PAPER

"Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) reminds us that each age needs to write its own books. Each age has its own stories. Each age has its own poetry.

Each age has its own music," said Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the Mount Olive College Press.

"Imagine then, if you will, the value of a piece of paper," she continued.

"A writer quickens to the friendship of a piece of paper. When no one is around to hear the heartache or celebration, a writer turns to a piece of paper. When that flash of a story or thought or ideology blazes through the little gray cells, a writer turns to a piece of paper. When the history of a people's faith needs to be recorded, a writer turns to a piece of paper. When the banter of the world closes the psyche and the richness of the soul demands a different expression, a writer turns to a piece of paper," she said.

"Histories, poems, recipes, sayings, meditations, beliefs, concepts, values, pictures, stories, music, reviews, letters and notes are all the record of an age — all made visible on a piece of paper," added Dr. Worthington.

"When a writer shapes the blank page into a life form, a piece of paper lives," she said.

"I believe in a piece of paper. Sheets of paper make up books. And books build a legacy for the present and the future," stressed Dr. Worthington.



The 1996-97 book gift to all Bridge Builders is *Meditations*, written by Dr. Pepper Worthington and illustrated by



DECEMBER

IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

L

30

30

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
1	2 ♦ Central Conference Laymen's League, Gum Swamp FWB, 7:00 PM Supper 7:30 PM Business	3	4
8 * Third Century Singers at Mount Olive College, 1:30 PM	9	10 * NC Symphony "Christmas Pops" Concert at Mount Olive College, 7:30 PM + FWB Press Deadline	11
15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25
29	30	31	1

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

urrent month

- ▼ Home Missions
- ◆ Layman's League
- * Mount Olive College
- ★ Conference Meeting
- Vandemere
- ✿ Woman's Auxiliary

Mount Olive College Closed

the Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level, NC.

"The Mount Olive College Press wishes to thank all of you here tonight for your support in generous giving to our College. Though none of your contributions finance the Mount Olive College Press; nonetheless, you all deserve the gift of a piece of paper molded, shaped and created into a book." Dr. Worthington smiled.

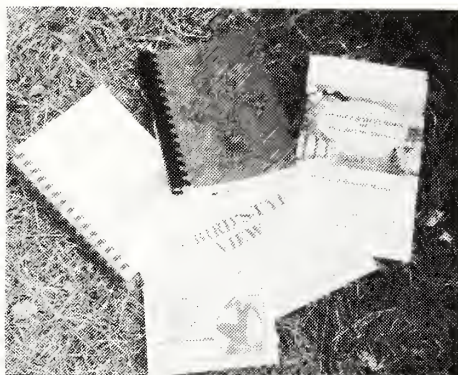
"The 1996-1997 book gift to all Bridge Builders is a little book called *Meditations* which I wrote from 1993-1995. The floral art work is the craft of my husband, the Rev. Michael G. Warning, who now serves our denomination as pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level, NC," she announced.

"Tonight you will also have a chance to talk to Dr. Michael R. Pelt about his new book, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*. His fine scholarship, dedication to research, and bold work are evident in his historical record of our denomination. We are blessed to have such a scholar among us, a man who believes in the history of our people and has acted upon that belief by ardently using a piece of paper to tell our story," she said.

"Much appreciation goes to our denomination's printer, the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden. Robert Hadden, the production manager of the Free Will Baptist Press and Cliff Gray, executive director, both worked overtime to see that my *Meditations* book would be ready as the 1996-1997 gift to you and to see that Dr. Pelt's needed *History of Original Free Will Baptists* would be ready by the 84th Convention of Original Free Will Baptist held on September 10-12, 1996 at College Hall," stressed Dr. Worthington as she held up the books printed by the Free Will Baptist Press.

"Let us celebrate the words on a piece of paper...warm words, documented words, thought-processing words," she said.

"Each age needs its own books. Let us celebrate our pieces of paper," she concluded.



Book gifts to Bridge Builders have included Barbara Mapp's *Just Like Grandma Used To Make*, Carol Hayman's *Images and Echoes of Beaufort-by-the-Sea*, John and Jeanne Mays' *Worth Remembering*, Rose Jones' *A Bird's-Eye View*, and Pepper Worthington's *Meditations*.

DR. DONALD RIBEIRO: THE VALUE OF CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

With a bright smile, Dr. Donald Ribeiro, speaker for the event, came to the forefront. He serves on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees and is a member of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church, Pitt County.

"I am excited to share with God's people about God's work in the wonderful arena of Mount Olive College," began Dr. Ribeiro.

"Tonight I want to talk about the value of Christ in Christian education. It is so important today to have Christ in control of our college," he said.

"I believe Christian education is the cornerstone of all our lives. Christian education is the building block of our society. What is taught in our schools today will be the politics of tomorrow and will set the standards of our society," he said.

"The trend in education today is to take God out of the education. If you take God out of anything, you are in trouble," he declared.



Dr. Donald Ribeiro was the featured speaker at the 1996 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner.



Miss Myra L Strickland, a junior at Mount Olive College, sang "My Soul Desire" at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. She is a member of Palmer Memorial FWB Church, Wake County.

"If you take God out of the family, you are in trouble. If you take God out of business, you are in trouble. If you take God out of the churches, you are in trouble. If you take God out of education, you are in trouble," he stressed.

"Christ must be in Christian education and in the education of all levels. We want Mount Olive College to be the best. Well, it is, because Jesus Christ is the center of Christian education," he concluded.

Dr. Ribeiro received a standing ovation.



Merry Christmas from the
Free Will Baptist Press and Bible and Bookstores

History of St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church Elizabeth City, North Carolina

We are indebted to the Rev. E. C. Morris for the preservation of the early history of St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church. His documentation shows a beginning date in 1892, thirty years before a Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabeth City shows up in the minutes of the Central Conference. There may have been an attempt at this early date to organize a church in Elizabeth City, however no solid evidence that we know of exists to support this claim.

Hidden in the minutes of our early church history there is an old piece of yellowed paper with these handwritten words "We honor our charter members — Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Meekins, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sawyer, Mrs. Bunnie Hopkins White, Mr. John Jones, Mr. W. A. Liverman, Mr. Claude Brickhouse, Mr. A. E. Jones, Rev. R. S. Wooten — August 21, 1921." It is this date that we will use as the beginning of the Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabeth City. In the article "Local Free Will Baptist Church History" written by Rev. Morris, he cites a date of August 16 when nine members gathered in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sawyer on Parsonage Street. "Some time in the fall of the same year, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McAdams came with a tent and with an evangelistic party consisting of six, stayed here for about four months holding meetings every night nearly under the tent." We have written documentation giving the year the Rev. and Mrs. H. M. McAdams came to Elizabeth City in 1921. We can therefore correctly use

the year 1921 as the beginning date for St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church.

At first, the church worshipped in an old store building on the corner of Bell Street and Skinner Avenue (now Hughes Boulevard). The Rev. and Mrs. McAdams came to town with a huge tent and pitched it on Parsonage Street for their revival meetings. Mrs. Lizzie McAdams was an evangelist, also, and it has been passed down to us through the years that she was just as good, if not a better preacher than her husband. After holding revival for four and one-half months, the McAdams' moved on with the tent. In the spring of 1922, the church brought the lot on Parsonage Street, that had been the site of the wonderful revival meetings. The first church building was built on this lot. In 1937 the Smith-Douglas Fertilizer Co. of Norfolk, VA gave to the church the half lot that adjoined this property.

Until 1924, the church had only part-time pastors. Although the membership grew, there was a great need for a full-time pastor. The Rev. A. H. Outlaw was our first full-time pastor and he served the church until April 1929. Much progress was made under his pastorate. Soon after the church was built, the name St. Paul Free Will Baptist Church was adopted. St. Paul was named for Paul Palmer, the man to whom we give credit for starting the General Baptist (later known as Free Will Baptist) church in North Carolina.

In 1943, the church traded proper-

ties with the Salvation Army Church on the corner of Colonial Avenue and Road Street. No money passed hands, it was an even trade.

The church continued to grow and soon saw the need for a bigger and more modern building. It was decided to sell the church property and build a new church in a better location. The church was sold to Dr. Z. D. Owens for \$13,850.00. Dr. Owens gave to the church all the windows, gas heaters and the furniture as a donation. Under the leadership of the Rev. Charles W. Brown, on August 7, 1951, the church purchased two lots on the corner of Cedar and Ash Streets for the sum of \$3500.00. On September 2, 1951 a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new church building. The new beautiful church, dedicated on Sunday, January 13, 1952, is now the present-day St. Paul Church. The new church was built at a cost of \$15,961.19. A note-burning service was held on January 1, 1961 and the church was declared debt-free.

In 1962, following the split of the Free Will Baptist denomination into Original Free Will Baptists and National Free Will Baptists, the local church also split. The pastor at that time, the Rev. Paul Lee, chose to move to another location within the city to become a part of the National Association. Many members departed from the church with the Rev. Lee. That church remained for only a couple of years. When its doors were closed, many of the members returned to St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church.

The church purchased its first parsonage in the late 1960s on Harrell Street. The Rev. John A. Owens was the first pastor to live in the parsonage. The church soon saw a need for a bigger parsonage to better suit the needs of a pastor and his family, and a new parsonage was built on Cooper Street and the old one sold. The parsonage on Cooper Street was owned by the church until 1988. The

pastor at that time did not live in the parsonage, and the church decided to sell the home and give its pastor a housing allowance instead. The money from the sale of the parsonage was put into savings to be used again when and if the church decided to buy another parsonage.

Needing more space for the growing congregation, a fellowship hall was added to the church in 1980. In 1983 a pastor's study was built on the back of the church.

St. Paul has seen many hard times through its seventy-five year history. One of the lowest times was in 1993 when all but eight people left the congregation. But through the hardest of times, God has always preserved a remnant in His church. Under the leadership of the Rev. John W. Sexton, St. Paul was revived in a miraculous way. God's wonderful spirit once again filled the church and the congregation grew in number and in spirit. In 1993, a new front porch and handicap ramp were built on the front of the church. In 1995, the church saw a dream become a reality when it was able to pad the pews in the sanctuary. New front doors were installed at the front entrance in 1996, giving the church a beautiful new appearance.

Once again seeing the need for a parsonage, the church used the money from the sale of the old parsonage in 1988 to buy property in Peartree Place Subdivision, about six miles outside of town. With God's help, and a lot of prayers and hard work, the Rev. Paul C. Grubbs and his family moved into our beautiful new parsonage on July 16, 1996.

Today, St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church continues to be the only Free Will Baptist Church in and around the Elizabeth City area. The church is still growing and is proud to be a loving and spirit-filled congregation.

Information compiled by:
Rev. James "Buddy" Rogerson
Ollie Bell Rogerson
Judy Rogerson Cox.

ROSE OF SHARON

100 YEARS

AND COUNTING

BY PEGGY BAILEY



Plan it and they will come. That's what the Centennial Committee at Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church did, and the old cliché proved true. Beginning in 1992, the committee chose activities they hoped would draw former members, their families and friends back to their roots to help the current congregation celebrate a milestone 100 years in the making.

Come they did on Sunday, October 13, 1996, to mark the Centennial anniversary of a small rural church located at 8000 Bear Grass Road in Martin County. The crowd filled the sanctuary, spilled into the classrooms, over into the Fellowship Hall, and finally spread onto the surrounding lawn. Approximately 300 people registered at the door for the worship service which began at 10:30 AM.

Many were still there for the 2:00 PM viewing of a video made up of photographs gathered from old family albums, cigar boxes, and paper bags after being tucked away for generations. Included in the video prepared by Sue and Annie Cratt and Sharon Roberson were pictures of recent activities and worship services. The video was narrated by the pastor Joey Williams.

After the pastor welcomed everyone at the opening of the morning worship service, Thomas Harrison responded for the visitors. Thomas is the grandson of W. T. Pollard, who served intermittently as pastor for 20 years, beginning in 1902 and ending in 1926. Two of the Reverend Pollard's granddaughters, Annie Cratt and Mertie Coltrain, and many of his great grandchildren are very active in all phases of the church today.

During the morning service, the Revs. J. B. Narron and Ronnie Hobgood were recognized as former pastors in attendance by E. D. Harrison, church historian and member of the Centennial Committee. Ronnie also delivered the homecoming message, incorporating the church history and his own special memories of Rose of Sharon as his first full-time church into a dynamic sermon entitled "Pressing On."

Annie Cratt, secretary of the Centennial Committee, recognized the Reverend Frank Harrison and the Reverend Gary Bailey, returning as special guests who were called to the ministry at an early age while attending Rose of Sharon. Both men briefly shared their memories of growing up in the community, and of receiving guidance from the church that they still draw upon in the Christian work.

Frank is a vital presence at Mount Olive College as Campus Minister and touches the lives of many students preparing themselves for the future. Gary is pastor of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County, a continuously expanding congregation with a tremendous outreach in the community.

Convention Executive Administrator, the Reverend Scott Sowers, presented the congregation a plaque recognizing the 100 years of service to God.

Ronnie then began our entry into another century of service to God should Jesus tarry. His challenge to press on gave tremendous meaning to the

service immediately following the morning message, when the people dedicated a recently installed organ to God's glory. By faith the organ had been delivered following the April quarterly meeting and by faith it was paid for through special memorials and honorariums made up until the final night of the fall revival. By homecoming it was debt-free, with an overflow that will hopefully, soon be enough to purchase chimes.

It was a glorious day, enhanced by the warm sun that allowed dinner on the ground to be enjoyed in comfort. As the food was spread, a four-tiered cake was unveiled on the patio of the Sunday school annex and the group sang "Happy Birthday" to themselves.

During the meal there was much discussion about the old timey hand fan with the inked drawing of the original church building, given out at registration. Though there have been many phases of remodeling, the original structure is still intact, covered now by bricks that cover asbestos shingles that cover the original clapboard siding.

Other items of interest were copies of a poem written by Ruby Farmer Price detailing precious memories of Rose of Sharon, bookmarks, and license plates with inked drawings of both the old and current facility that were given to arouse interest and encourage participation in the previous week's activities.



Left - Joey Williams, Pastor of Rose of Sharon receives a plaque recognizing 100 years of service from the Rev. Scott Sowers, Executive Secretary of Convention.



Surrounding the four-tier birthday cake that represented Rose of Sharon's 100 years of service to God in Bear Grass Community are Centennial Committee members and special guests. Left to right are Chairman Peggy Bailey, E. D. Harrison, Louenia Peaks, Annie Cratt, Gary Bailey, Ronnie Hobgood, J. B. Narron, and Frank Harrison.



Rose of Sharon

This church has stood 100 years,
tis a voice from the past
that resounds in our ears.
Old memories awake as we all come home,
back from the passing years that have
unfolded and gone.

Memories of friends in their own special places,
The joy of the Lord on all their faces.
They sang I'm bound for the promised land,
heads bowed in prayer, hand in hand
Voices joined in singing
Grandpa's tenor clearly ringing.

The church is very special to me,
here in early childhood, we were taught to
trust and obey.
Friends that are loved so well have come to
join in the celebration of the Rose of Sharon
Birthday.

As down memory lane I roam,
many dear friends once here
have been called home.
Family members that we loved best,
back in the little church yard are neatly laid
to rest.

As you leave this sacred place today,
remember all your friends in a special way.
One day you may to someone say —
It was here I spent my happiest day.

Ruby Farmer Price



Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

NEWS UPDATE

by Rev. Owen K. Arthur

Camp Vandemere has enjoyed a good summer. We would like to extend a special thanks to Aldric, Julia Ann, Annie, all the other workers, and directors for a job well-done. You have each helped make this one of the most successful years the camp has experienced.

We are happy to report that about 40 young people came to know Christ as their personal Saviour this year. How many of our churches can boast of that! Hearing these kinds of reports makes us even more eager to encourage more of our youth to attend camp. I am more convinced than ever that God has ordained Camp Vandemere to reach precious souls for His Kingdom. Won't you start praying with us right now for next year's camping season?

In last month's "Free Will Baptist," our general manager wrote an article asking for help so we could recover from the hurricane damage. Some churches are already working on extra help above their normal budgeted amounts. We certainly can use all the help you can give us.

Before camp starts next summer, we must buy a new commercial freezer. Our old one was destroyed during the first hurricane. We also need a new swimming pool. The one we had just installed this year was destroyed by hurricane Fran. The organ in the dinner hall was ruined by water and the piano was also damaged. It would be nice to have an electric keyboard that is portable and could be moved easily.

Different churches have asked how they could be of service to the camp. These are a few recommendations made by the board. We are in dire need of more bunk beds. We would like them to be made similar to the ones donated by Sandy Plain Church. We also need new mattresses. The Gillikin house could be better utilized if it were updated to accommodate family groups. This would include purchasing a refrigerator, stove, and kitchen utensils.

Christmas is just around the corner. This would be a great time for you to remember your camp. We are going into the leanest months for the camp, but we still have many expenses also. Will you prayerfully consider making a generous donation during this special holiday season?

We hope to keep the family lodge open longer this year if there is enough response. Usually, we close the camp completely around Thanksgiving. Our plans are to keep the lodge open and available for you to use until the weather forces us to close it. If you would like to come down and spend a few days to get away from the fast pace we often live, please call and make reservations.

In closing, we would like to leave you with a portion of Luke 6:38. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over..." Ask God what He wants you to do.

WE HAVE A GOODLY HERITAGE

Psalm 16:5-6

Message delivered by Dr. Michael Pelt at the 100th Anniversary of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists which convened at Trent Church on October 24, 1996.

The psalm belongs to a class of psalms known as "Songs of Trust." Such psalms, like Psalm 23, tell of reliance upon God, especially in times of trouble or when the writer is threatened by unforeseen circumstances. But they reflect the psalmist's genuine faith in God. In Psalm 16:5-6 his use of imagery to describe his good fortune captures our attention: "The Lord is my chosen portion (one's share in the division of goods) and my cup; you hold my lot (my good fortune). The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage" (NRSV).

What is our heritage? It is the total range of benefits that we enjoy that have been bequeathed to us from the past. Can you for a moment try to imagine what all that encompasses? It includes everything that has been given to us by those who have lived before us. You and I are to a great extent what we are because of what we have received from the generations who lived before us.

There is, first of all, our *family* heritage, the importance of which cannot be overestimated. Then we have our *national* heritage. The fact that we were born in a country that cherishes democratic ideals is a precious gift of our founding fathers. When this nation was formed, our forefathers believed that liberty is preferable to any form of tyranny. They and their ancestors in the British Isles had gained their liberty and equality before the law through a long struggle with the kings and the upper class. Some of these ideas go back as far as the Athenians in ancient Greece and were given new expression in the late 17th century by the philosopher, John Locke, whose writings were avidly studied by men like Thomas Jefferson. We tend to take our national heritage too lightly as, for ex-

ample, when we fail to cast our vote in local, state, and national elections.

In addition to all the above, there is our *cultural* heritage, which has developed over many centuries. Hundreds of men and women have made substantial contributions to our cultural heritage in areas like art, music, architecture, literature, the sciences, medicine, industry, agriculture, transportation, and communication. We are all debtors to people that we may never have heard of.

It is a sobering experience to come to the realization of how much we owe to those whose gifts and sacrifices have made our lives richer and better than they would otherwise have been. How many of us would want to go back even a hundred years and live without the benefits and the amenities which we enjoy today? Although we have our problems to face in the modern world, in some ways we have more freedom to do what we would like to do than our forefathers did. But we can hardly begin to appreciate this unless we know something about our heritage. This is one reason we have programs of education for people at all levels. This is also a good reason to study our history and to read the biographies of great men and women who have contributed so much to our heritage. If we are to know how we got where we are, we must devote more time to learning about our past and the lives of those who helped to shape that past. The opportunities and the resources for gaining such knowledge are readily available to us if we are willing to seize them. Our public libraries and private collections are open to everyone who can read. Our schools and colleges are offering a vast number of courses designed to enhance our knowledge of the past.

But we are beneficiaries of an even

greater Giver than those who lived before us, for back of all those whose gifts have blessed and enriched our lives and back of all the material means which have been used to make life better for us, there is the Creator and Provider Himself. When we fail to acknowledge Him as the source of every good thing or fail to thank Him for His creative role in nature and in history, we are apt to lose a clear perspective on life. Or, we may be in danger of falling victim to a false pride which assumes that we human beings have accomplished by ourselves alone all that we cherish. There are very many in the present generation who not only fail to see how they are indebted to earlier generations, but are also blind to the fact that God the Creator sustains and provides for us all, just as He has since the beginning of time.

What ought a person to do with his heritage? When a person inherits property or wealth, we all agree that he/she has an obligation to use that inheritance wisely and responsibly. The same should be true of our entire heritage, which is a gift to us that we did not earn. A true appreciation of our heritage must take into account the fact that we are stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship demands faithfulness to Him who has given us so much. We know that the farmer who takes more from the land than he gives back to it is a very poor steward. The business man who takes more than a fair profit or who cheats his customers in some way is a dishonest steward. The citizens who willingly break those laws that are designed to protect them as well as all citizens are practicing bad stewardship. The person who feels no responsibility to help his neighbor in distress is an indifferent steward. The church member who enjoys God's

abundance and does not give a reasonable portion of his income to causes that serve the Kingdom of God is not practicing good stewardship. So, likewise, the fact that we have a goodly heritage means that we cannot escape the responsibility of becoming aware of that heritage and using and developing it in a way that glorifies God and proves a blessing to others, both in this generation and in the generations yet to come.

But what can we do with our heritage in such a way as to glorify God and to bless the lives of others? For one thing, we don't treat it lightly. We don't draw the conclusion that we are the lucky ones and that others can simply get by the best way they can. Nor can we just be content to enjoy all the gifts and blessings we have received and bask in the riches that they bestow. We must not treat what is clearly a gift as if it is simply a right. Rather, we must be grateful for all that has been given to us and be ready to improve it wherever possible, joyfully sharing with others these gifts of God, so that others who come after us will know that we have lived, that we have truly shared the blessings that have been bestowed on us, and that we have been wise and faithful stewards. We do this for God's sake and for the sake of humankind.

Now, I would like to focus on one aspect of our heritage, one that is especially important for all Christian people — that is, our spiritual heritage. What does this encompass? Much more than we can deal with today in the few minutes that we have.

There is, first of all, our inheritance from ancient Israel. When we read the writings of the Old Testament, we are reading a translation of the ancient Hebrew Scriptures. Those Scriptures give us an account of the history of God's dealings with a particular people in the midst of their struggles and trails as they sought to live in a covenant relationship with Him. They were not a great people when measured by the standards of the world. They never created a world empire or distinguished themselves

as the builders of a material culture more advanced than any other people. Their distinguishing mark was their openness to the God who was revealing Himself to certain ones among them, saving them from slavery in Egypt, giving them a land of their own, sending prophets to speak to them and to warn them in times of national peril. Their Scriptures testify to God's dealings with them and His promise to bless the nations through them.

Jesus of Nazareth came to these same people, preached among them, healed their sick, and when He was finally crucified in their holy city, His disciples began to declare to their fellow Jews that this Jesus was the promised Messiah for whom Israel was waiting. Later on, some of these disciples shared this message with the Gentiles, many of whom also believed that Jesus is the Son of God and that God has shown this by raising Him from the dead.

This proclamation of the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit brought into being what is known as the church. This too is a great part of our heritage. It is important to remember that we did not create the church, that it did not come to birth in our time and place. It was not the result of our planning or ingenuity. Rather, it came into being at a turning point in God's dealings with humankind. Its beginning in the world is a part of the gospel story itself. It was God's own creation by His Resurrection power and by the gift of the Holy Spirit. You and I have been made a part of the church because we heard the good news of God's grace and responded to it when it was proclaimed to us in the working out of God's purpose in the world. This same gospel was first preached by the apostles and was repeatedly proclaimed in word and deed down through the centuries since the coming of Christ. The contributions of men like St. Paul, St. Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, to name but a few, are all a part of our spiritual heritage. But there were many, many

more whose names we may have never heard, that enriched this heritage by the testimony of their lives. November 1 is All Saints Day, a day when Christians are reminded of the lives of those unnumbered Children of God whose devotion to Christ has made it possible for the Church of the Living God to prevail against the kingdom of darkness. In the introduction to his letter to the Romans the apostle Paul said, "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish, and I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome." If Paul felt such a debt to the people of his generation, many of whom he had never seen, how much more are we the debtors to those who were in Christ before us (Romans 16:7). Their faithful witness, often in great peril for their lives, has assured us of the opportunity to enjoy the blessings of the gospel today. They have fought the good fight of faith and have laid hold onto eternal life. That we are numbered with such a great company of men and women, the saints of yesterday, is a privilege that ought to thrill our hearts indeed. It is cause for thanksgiving and celebration.

We here today belong to that larger body of Christians who are called Baptists because we hold that only believers should be baptized. Our spiritual fathers and mothers in England and Europe embraced this practice when they became convinced that the Scriptures taught that those who had confessed their sins and believed in Christ as Saviour and Lord were the only proper candidates for baptism. Such a view was accepted by only a small fraction of the total number of Christians in Europe at that time.

Among the larger body of the people called Baptists we have also this distinction. Our spiritual forebears were the first English Baptists, who came to believe in the general atonement, the belief that Christ died for all human beings and not just for the elect. For that reason they were known as General Baptists. There

were other English Baptists who were called Particular Baptists because they believed, as did most other Protestants at the time, that Christ died only for the elect, that is, those whom God had chosen from the foundation of the world. These Particular Baptists believed the Calvinist teaching that everyone else was condemned to suffer an eternal separation from God. We Free Will Baptists are the heirs of those General Baptists who came to these shores and settled in eastern North Carolina around 1700 when it was still an English colony. The first minister among them was Paul Palmer, who is credited with the organization of a church in Chowan Precinct in 1727 and another in Pasquotank Precinct. He later preached in this part of the coastal area of North Carolina and was soon joined by other men who preached a gospel that emphasized the doctrines of free will, free grace, and free salvation for all. One of these early preachers was Joseph Parker, who came to what was then a part of Dobbs County and settled on Little Contentnea Creek where he purchased one hundred acres of land. There he soon gathered a congregation that is now called Little Creek Church. Later he preached in nearby communities where he established branches of Little Creek Church that were soon to become churches also. These included Wheat Swamp, and Lousan Swamp, and perhaps also Gum Swamp in Pitt County. The churches of Greene, Lenoir, Craven, Pitt, and surrounding counties owe much to the labors of this man and others who followed him. Among these was Jesse Heath, who with James Roach, prepared the 1812 Former Articles that served our denomination for more than a century. Then there was Jeremiah Heath, who in 1839 stood on the floor of the conference and made a motion that every minister be required to uphold the doctrines of Original Free Will Baptists and although his motion did not receive a majority vote, there were others who were not willing to

abandon their articles of faith in response to the teachings of Thomas and Alexander Campbell. These men laid the foundation and others have built upon it. Every faithful member of this denomination has added something to the heritage that we are able to enjoy today. The result is that Original Free Will Baptists have multiplied and numerous churches have been established. Each one of these churches is a spiritual house that is not yet finished if we are willing to see that other lives can be brought in to add to the beauty and usefulness of these temples of the Holy Spirit. Remember that this was one of the metaphors that Paul used to describe

a local church, the church at Corinth, a church that had great potential but was torn by divisions.

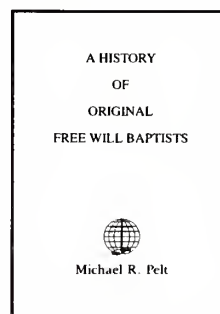
Ours is a goodly heritage. It is rich and varied because it was passed on through many generations who added their own contributions to it. Behind it all is the goodness of an all-sufficient God and Saviour whose love never faileth. To use the Psalmist's word: "He is our chosen portion. He holds fast our lot. The lines have fallen for us in pleasant places; *we have a goodly heritage.*" That we have a goodly heritage means that our future is bright if we are faithful stewards of that heritage.

A New Publication

A History Of Original Free Will Baptists

by

Dr. Michael Pelt



Do you have your copy?

Copies are available at Free Will Baptist bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern and Wilson, and at the Mount Olive College Bookstore,

or by writing to:

Dr. Michael Pelt

322 Baker Chapel Church Rd • Mount Olive, NC 28365

Price:	\$21.95
NC Sales Tax:	1.32
Postage:	1.73
Total:	\$25.00

This account of our Free Will Baptist heritage will make a nice Christmas gift for a family member or special friend. It would also be an appropriate gift for your church library and for your public library.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

Layman's League News

- December 2, 1996** Central Conference Layman's League, Gum Swamp FWB Church, 7:00 PM Supper, 7:45 PM Business.
- December 5, 1996** Executive Board of the Layman's League, Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden, 7:00 PM.
- May 3, 1997** State Layman's League Singspiration, Juniper Chapel FWB Church, Vanceboro, 6:00 PM Supper, 7:00 PM Sing.
- May 9, 1997** State Layman's League Meeting, Time and Place TBA.
- June 6-7, 1997** Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere
* Layman, make plans to attend this year's, Retreat. You will be blessed.
-
-

What Goes On?

Activities

LOCAL: (1) Establish regular meeting time. (2) Make program interesting. (3) Devotion. (4) Project (properties improvements, etc.). (5) Rest Home ministries. (6) Visit sick. (7) Annual Layman's Day. (8) Sponsor Church-wide events (cook-outs: hamburger - hot dogs, fish fry, prayer breakfast, etc.). (9) Invite Conference and State Layman's meetings. (10) Support state layman's project. (11) Keep Layman's League exciting. (12) Serve as pastoral support group. (13) See the *Layman's League Handbook* for more ideas.

CONFERENCE: (1) Establish regular quarterly meetings. (2) Be sure all Layman's Leagues in conference are aware of time and place of each meeting. (3) Prepare interesting programs at host church. (4) Consider assembling early for refreshments or dinner, at the discretion of the host church. (5) Host church will create climate for a meeting of Christian laymen. (6) Host church will see that printed programs are ready for distribution and that ushers are on duty. (7) Annual selection of conference officers should represent several churches and be men excited with the opportunity to serve. (8) Support the state project for the year. (9) Be sure that activities and contributions to our denomination are shared with our community and denominational publications. (10) Support conference events; for example, Ladies Night, Spring Singspiration, Fall Singspiration, etc. (11) See *Layman's League Handbook* for additional information.

STATE: (1) Establish regular state Layman's League meetings. (2) Committees and officers should represent many conferences and churches. (3) Biannual meetings should be well publicized and prepared. (4) The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and song leader. (5) A promotional committee representing a cross section of the Layman's League will promote the Free Will Baptist Layman's League, and assist in chartering new groups, Layman's Leagues. (6) Promote and assist in the annual projects. (7) Promote Eagles Nest activities, the annual Sing, and Spiritual Life Retreat. (8) See *Layman's League Handbook* for more information about state work.

Layman's League Board: It shall be the responsibility of this Board to perpetuate the Layman's League organization on a local and state level, and in cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press provide programs and other such literature as may be needed for the advancement of this organization. The Layman's League Board shall be composed of twelve (12) members with the terms of four members expiring each year, the vacancies to be filled by the State Convention.

PASTOR NEEDED

White Hill FWB Church is seeking a pastor.

If you are interested, contact:

Gary Jordan

PO Box 519 • Aurora, NC 27806

919-322-5615

St. Mary's Grove FWB Church in Benson (Cape Fear Conference) is searching for a full-time pastor.

If interested contact

Danny Coates

1131 N. Pleasant-Coats Rd • Benson, NC 27504

919-934-5392

Wintergreen FWB Church Bus For Sale



Bus may be seen by contacting

Frankie Wetherington (638-1061)

Darrell Wood (638-5342)

Bids Being Accepted

PASTOR AVAILABLE

The Rev. L. Grady Tucker will be available for full-time or part-time pastoral service and/or Revival services effective October 7, 1996. Contact :

Rev. Tucker – 919-633-0986 or
705 River Road • New Bern, NC

The Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez is available for full-time or part-time pastorate. Contact:

Rev. Edmundo G. Gonzalez – 919-934-4414 or
6410 Black Creek Road • Smithfield, NC 27577

Ordained Minsiter, Jerry E. Rowe is available for regular, supply, or interim pastorate within commuting distance from his residence in the Newport, NC area.

Contact:

Jerry E. Rowe – 919-393-8890 or
138 Pearson Circle • Newport, NC 28570

Rev. A. B. Bryan is available for full, part-time, supply, interim or special services. Contact:

Rev. A. B. Bryan – 919-736-8996
231 Five Points Road • Dudley, NC 28333

Ordained Minister, Braxton Carter, is available for supply work, full-time or part-time pastoral work, fill pulpits for vacation or sickness, and/or youth minister positions.

If interested contact

Braxton Carter

103 Alpine Way • Clayton, NC 27520
919-553-7246 (H) • 919-505-6105 (pager)

Clifford Ball is available for pastoral work, if interested contact:

Clifford Ball

6138 Weyerhaeuser Road • Grifton, NC 28530
524-4337

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary voted at their fall meeting to change their 1997 Convention to Saturdays temporarily. The spring meeting will be March 15, 1997 at Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church, Sneads Ferry, NC and the fall meeting will be on Saturday, September 20, 1997.

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT
THE DENOMINATION



News From

ST. PAUL OFWB CHURCH

On October 6, 1996, St. Paul OFWB Church in Elizabeth City celebrated 75 years. Our homecoming weekend began with a wonderful spirit-filled concert by the Four In Christ. We were presented a 75-year history of the church (which is included in this month's *Free Will Baptist* under Features), then we were blessed with a wonderful worship service, highlighted with more special singing. The Rev. David C. Hansley brought a very timely homecoming message. We all enjoyed a big old-fashioned barbecue following the service. We are still praising God for 75 years and for a blessed homecoming weekend.



Pastor Paul Grubbs welcomes the Rev. David Charles Hansley to our 75th celebration.



Mrs. Robana Fowler was thankful to have 5 generations at our homecoming celebration.

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CATCHES GREASED PIG!

On October 25th Christian Chapel had an unusual event, the catching of a greased pig! This was done to raise money for the youth to go skiing in West Virginia. There were games for all ages, bobbing for apples, cake walk, water balloon games for adults, horse and buggy rides, and a gun show. The gun show was done by Marshall Destin of Ayden; he talked about gun safety and then put on a fast draw demonstration. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers were served. A hay ride put the finishing touches on a great day. The youth had the support of the church and raised about \$1600.00 that day.



Marshall Destin & Pastor, Steve Hargrove



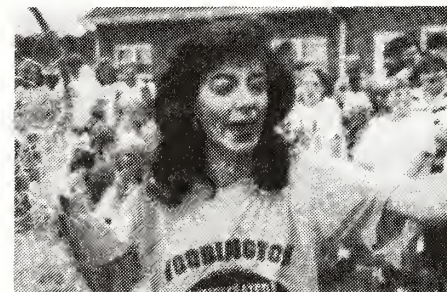
Adult Games with Water Balloons



Bobbing for apples



Workers making it a success.



No one but a teacher would think of using a fishing net and weiners, but she caught it!



Chasing the Pig





News from Sidney Church...

SIDNEY CHURCH WELCOMES THE REV. BOB HARBER AS PASTOR



The Rev. Bob Harber is the new pastor of Sidney FWB Church. The Rev. Harber was born in Rector, Arkansas and has traveled throughout the United States and various foreign countries in his ministry.

The Rev. Harber's educational experiences include studies at Southeast Missouri State, Oakland City College, Fuller Seminary, and Golden Gate Seminary. He is married to Dollie A. Harber who currently serves as a resource specialist at Moreno Valley Unified School in southern California. Mrs. Harber will be moving to the area once the current school year is completed. The Harber's have seven children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Prior to coming to Sidney, the Harber's served as Ethnic Mission Directors for Original Free Will Baptist and General Baptist Home Mission Boards in California. While serving in this capacity, the Harber's had the privilege of working with many ethnic groups including the H'Mong (mountain people from Laos in Southeast Asia) the Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hispanic, Filipinos, Cambodians, and African/Americans.

On coming to Sidney to serve as pastor, the Rev. Harber states, "When I first came to the Sidney Free Will Baptist Church and worshipped with the people, it seemed like I was at home and that I had known them for many years. When the church called me as pastor, I felt that this was a *call* from God. My wife also felt at home when she saw the church building and parsonage and met some of the people. We plan to stay here for the remainder of our active years and serve God with the Sidney FWB congregation and minister in the Sidney Community. We would also like to share with other congregations in seminars, workshops, and revivals as the Lord allows."

The Rev. Harber is currently living on the Hoff Road until he moves into the church parsonage. His home phone and the church office phone is 964-4402. Sidney Church is located at 5580 Sidney Road.

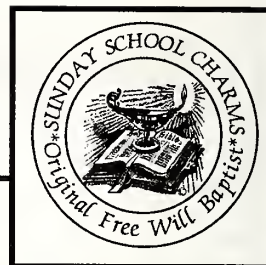
Zinkie Jones Honored At Sidney Church

Zinkie Jones was recently honored as the "Sidney Sunday School Worker of the Year" in the annual ceremony held at the church. Zinkie, who serves as the Sunday school pianist, is married to Don Jones, and has a daughter, Amanda, who is a senior at Mount Olive College. The Joneses live in Belhaven.

Gary Burbage, Sunday school superintendent, describes Zinkie as "a wonderful example of a dedicated servant of the Lord. She is willing to use the gifts God has given her, and she does it with a smile! We are very blessed to have Zinkie as a part of our Sunday school ministry."

As a part of being honored as Sunday School Worker of the Year, Zinkie was given a corsage, an "I Love Sunday School" coffee mug, and dinner for two at the River Forest Manor. During the ceremony, all Sunday school workers were recognized for the commitment and dedication and were honored with special music performed by the local singing group Manna.





*Seven important qualities of a
Sunday School teacher:*

- *Relationship with Jesus Christ*
 - *Love for people*
- *Patience with new Christians*
 - *Heart of a shepherd*
- *Sensitivity toward evangelism*
 - *Preparation in education*
 - *Vision for growth*

—Stan Toler

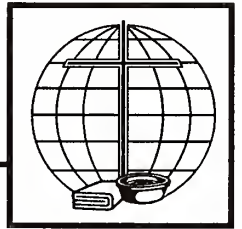


Notes & Quotes

notes and quotes

Scott Sowers, Executive Administrator

Convention
of Original
Free Will Baptists



THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

There is good news: According to the reports received at the 1996 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, we are experiencing growth!

A total of 731 individuals were baptized in Original Free Will Baptist churches last year. Congregations welcomed 535 individuals by transfer of letter and 105 by other means. That means 1,371 people were accepted into the membership of Free Will Baptist churches. During that same period, 430 persons passed away, 332 moved their membership to other congregations, and 75 left churches by other means. The total difference is 534 — and that represents growth!

According to the records, the churches experiencing the largest net gains were as follows: Mt. Zion (Wilson), 46; St. Mary's (Eastern), 28; Stoney Creek, 28; Faith (Brunswick), 24; Wooten's Chapel, 21; and Wildwood (Western), 21.

Churches who baptized 10 or more persons during the year included Mt. Zion (Western), 34; Faith (Brunswick), 24; St. Mary's (Eastern), 18; Black Jack, 17; Beaverdam, 16; Stancil's Chapel, 15; Stoney Creek, 15; Free Union (Central), 14; Harrell's Chapel, 14; Victory, 14; White Oak (Pee Dee), 14; Smyrna (Cape Fear), 13; Mission Valley, 12; Haymount, 11; Robert's Grove, 11; Spring Hill, 11; Hugo, 10; Marsh Swamp, 10; and Reedy Branch, 10.

From the reports received, the three largest churches in the Convention are Beaverdam (Pee Dee), with a membership of 701; Black Jack (Central), 604; and Stoney Creek (Western), 595. Sunday morning attendance at Stoney Creek averages 416; it averages 247 at Black Jack.

God is doing great things among Original Free Will Baptists. Let us all give Him the praise and the glory, for surely He is worthy! Our hats are off to all those who labor in the vineyard.

"For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given: and the government
shall be upon His shoulder:

Messiah

and His name shall
be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God, the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

May you sense His love
and goodness in a very special way
this Christmas season.

LEADERSHIP '97

Equipping Men & Women for Leadership

Featuring Dr. John C. Maxwell
An Intensive 2-Day Training Seminar
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
January 9-10, 1997

A group of Original Free Will Baptist ministers is planning to attend this special leadership seminar. The group will travel to Winston-Salem on Wednesday and return after the seminar is over, late Friday evening. If you are interested, contact the Rev. Scott Sowers for more details. Phone him at the Headquarters: (919) 746-4963. You will not want to miss the seminar — or this time of fellowship.



THE GIFT OF GIVING

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive," (Acts 20:35).

With the approach of Christmas and the end of the year, we come to the prime season for giving. Making gifts can be joyful, meaningful, and rewarding, or it can be a frantic, frustrating, and distressful experience. In this issue of *Golden Years*, let us consider what makes the difference.

Why We Give

In examining my own heart and mind, I find four primary reasons for giving: to express my love to family and friends; to render my gratitude to God and to special people; to practice Christian charity to those in need; and to support and to advance causes in which I believe. I find making gifts for these reasons to be an exhilarating experience.

Gifts for other reasons are most likely a price we pay, voluntarily or by constraint, for social and business relationships. Most often, gifts of this type are made for reasons of self-interest and, therefore, are not true gifts. Whether or not giving is joyful, meaningful and rewarding depends upon why we give.

How We Give

Gifts of money, presents we buy and other things of financial value are standard ways of giving, but these are not the only ways to give. Of even greater value can be the gift of our services. To a senior citizen, our presence may mean even more than our presents.

The words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," found their way into the New Testament through the Apostle Paul who had a deep insight into the meaning of Christian giving. In many ways, Paul's work at Ephesus was the crown jewel of his life. He spent more time there than in any other city where he worked. Also, at Ephesus he faced some of his fiercest opposition: in his own words he "fought with beasts." Paul held his ground, however, and used this city as his base for establishing churches in both Europe and Asia.

In his meeting with the Ephesian leaders, Paul tells them that "none of you will ever see me again." He reminds them that during his three years in Ephesus, he provided his living expenses by the work of his hands. His ministry was a gift of love, and it was in this context

that Paul quoted the words of Jesus. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The Rewards of Giving

There is a paradox in giving. If we give because we expect to receive, we have only tried to benefit ourselves — we have not truly given. On the other hand, if we give because we want to show love and kindness to others and to advance God's work on earth, the rewards are immeasurable.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" is a truth that speaks to the heart of human experience. Those who do not know the meaning of these words are spiritually impoverished regardless of how they measure their wealth. A century ago, Henry Drummond, author of *The Greatest Thing In The World* wrote: "You will find, as you look back upon your life that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."

When those of us who are fortunate enough to live in America consider how good God has been to us, it should not be difficult to give. If those of us who live in freedom would remember those who fought to defend it, the cost of giving would become a privilege. To be able to give means we have already been blessed, but in giving we receive a further blessing.

"This thing of giving," wrote George P. Burba, "I do not understand, any more than you do, but there is something about it that blesses us... Those who give most, have most left... I believe that everyone who dries a tear will be spared the shedding of a thousand tears... I believe that every sacrifice we make will so enrich us in the future that our regret will be that we did not enrich the sacrifice the more..."

"Give — and somewhere, from out of the clouds, or from the sacred depths of human hearts, a melody divine will reach your ears, and gladden all your days upon the earth." (Quoted by Arnand C. Marts in *Philanthropy's Role In Civilization*.)

THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP NEEDS MOTIVATION

by J. B. Narron

Since the beginning of the church in the first century and down through the centuries, the church has had its assigned task. The task comes from the Great Commission given by Jesus: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV). The great commission is a process by which we evangelize, reach the unchurched, assimilate them into the local church, and become Christlike in all that we are.

During my forty-two years as a pastor, I have become keenly aware that for the most part we have understood our task, but we, the church, have not accomplished our task. We have not performed well!! We are not a *thriving church*, but only seem to be *surviving*. The church is *starving for lack of effective leadership* among its clergy and laity. We have to find the key to the correlation between our mission and getting the job done. We need leaders who have the insights and abilities to make things happen.

Leadership is a must!! Clergy need sound professional training to understand the *why* and the *how* of God's use of His people and to lead the members of His congregation to develop their gifts, talents, and abilities to build the Kingdom of God in this world. Administratively, members need to lead the Holy Spirit to help people find their particular place in the body of Christ. One of the chief roles of a pastor is to manage God's people toward the church's goals by teaching people to use their God-given talents, gifts, and abilities.

Since the work of the church is done primarily by volunteers (approximately 99 percent), a program of enlistment and training needs to be targeted toward this group. The minister of the local church has to provide the resources and training among his church members, especially the leaders of the various church organizations, in order to develop their knowledge and skills to reach the desired goals. These programs have to be comprehensive but at the same time adaptable to all phases of the work of the local church.

Our churches have to understand the needs of their

community and our world, and then be motivated to do something about it. Motivation is the key word. Proper motivation is essential for strong, effective leadership. Therefore, our motivation has to come ultimately from our beliefs as well as the goals established by Jesus. We have to take seriously the Words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 9:37-38 KJV: "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." The church has to heed and act upon the words of the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi in the first century: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14 KJV). This should be motivation for any of us. Let's go!!

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

J.B. Narron

Born: April 5, 1928, Wilson County, NC.

Education: Bachelor of Arts from Atlantic Christian College (Barton). Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC in 1955. Graduate studies in guidance and counseling at East Carolina University in 1952 and at the Citadel in Charleston, SC from 1976-77.

Denominational Work: Ordained a Free Will Baptist minister on October 13, 1950 by the Western Conference.

Presently a member of the Central Conference.

Pastor of Ayden FWB Church in Ayden, NC (1985-91).

Pastor of Rose of Sharon FWB Church, Bear Grass, NC (1955-57).

Pastor of Howell Swamp FWB Church, Walstonburg, NC (1953-55).

Pastor of Sweet Gum Church, Stokes, NC (1953-57).

Pastor of Kinston FWB Church (1950-52).

Military Service: Chaplain in United States Air Force from May 2, 1957 to June 1, 1985.

Honors: The Air Force Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster). Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters).

Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers. 1995

Battle fatigue? What's that? Joe E. Brown, senior pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, defines this modern dilemma as a "chronic stress syndrome" where people become energy depleted, hollow-eyed, exhausted workaholics, spiritually empty, weary mates. Brown believes "89 percent of us suffer from chronic stress disorder" (29). What is wrong with us?

Boldly Brown declares, "Any journey we attempt in our own strength will end in exhaustion, disappointment, and frustration" (32). Brown encourages readers to rely not upon self-strength but upon God's strength. To build the strength of God in the psyche, Brown recommends an array of strategies to fight battle fatigue: (1) Learn to wait for the Lord to give the right direction for our journey; (2) Learn to rest in order to endure; (3) Learn to lighten the load of the material world; (4) Learn never, never, never, to give up; (5) Learn to give up self control in order to place the will in God's control; (6) Learn to build an inner faith in order to make the hard choices; (7) Learn to communicate; (8) Learn to feel satisfaction and gratification in the work place; (9) Learn to cooperate; (10) Learn to develop a big vision; (11) Learn to forgive; (12) Learn to "let go in mid air and leap" (207); (13) Learn to love and hope.

Did anyone in the Bible suffer battle fatigue? Indeed yes. Brown unflinchingly scurries through Biblical characters to remind us of their trials of battle fatigue. The Israelites of Isaiah's day were exhausted and turned to idols. Abraham spent his life searching for a promised land. David waited for God's voice. Daniel faced the jaws of hungry lions. Jesus accepted the journey to the Cross. Elijah was weary and troubled as he faced Jezebel's power. Moses was to lead tired people out of Egypt. Daniel stood firm before Nebuchadnezzar. Joseph accepted responsibility for his own life and he forgave his brothers.

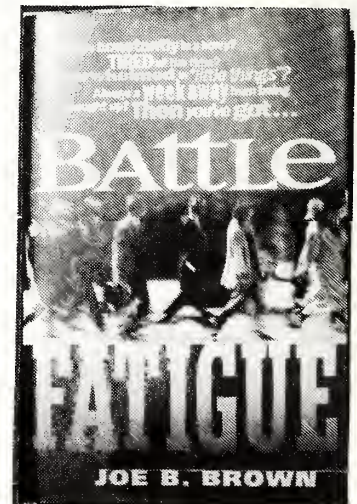
Modern Examples of Fighters of Battle Fatigue

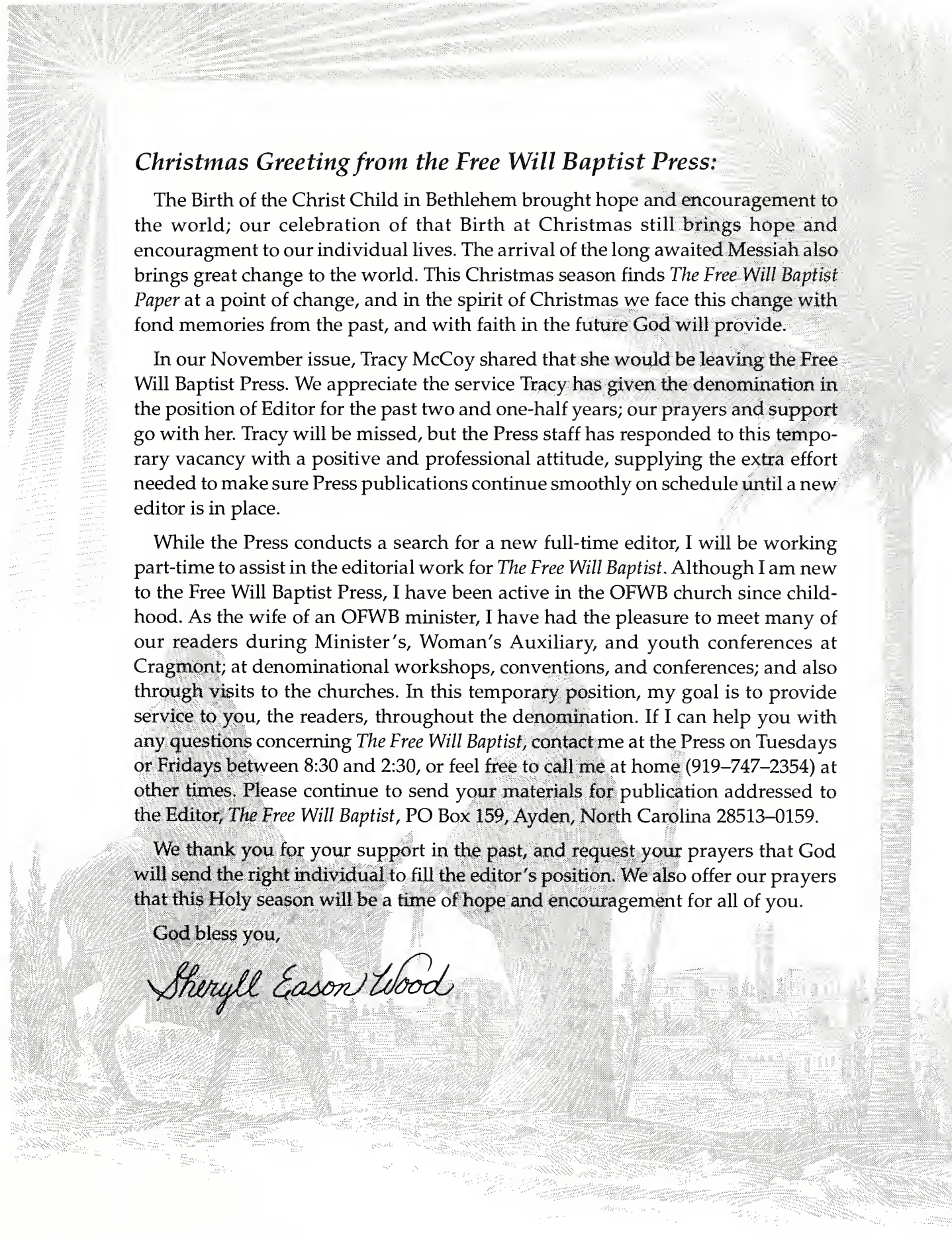
R. H. Macy failed numerous times in his department store, but he never quit. Babe Ruth struck out "1,330 times," but he never gave up and hit "714 home runs" (43). Winston Churchill never gave up in fighting Hitler.

Some people have waited for God. Alexander Solzhenitsyn suffered in the Gulag, a Soviet Siberian prison camp, but he knew God had not forsaken him. Joni Erickson Tada, paralyzed from an accident, knew God had not forsaken her.

Battle fatigue demands that we fight but not in traditional ways. The fatigue can only leave us when we place our will into God's will, our work into a framework of faith and hope, our relationship into a pattern of love. The flowering of the self is possible when Jesus becomes the water, sun, wind, and night.

AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON





Christmas Greeting from the Free Will Baptist Press:

The Birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem brought hope and encouragement to the world; our celebration of that Birth at Christmas still brings hope and encouragement to our individual lives. The arrival of the long awaited Messiah also brings great change to the world. This Christmas season finds *The Free Will Baptist Paper* at a point of change, and in the spirit of Christmas we face this change with fond memories from the past, and with faith in the future God will provide.

In our November issue, Tracy McCoy shared that she would be leaving the Free Will Baptist Press. We appreciate the service Tracy has given the denomination in the position of Editor for the past two and one-half years; our prayers and support go with her. Tracy will be missed, but the Press staff has responded to this temporary vacancy with a positive and professional attitude, supplying the extra effort needed to make sure Press publications continue smoothly on schedule until a new editor is in place.

While the Press conducts a search for a new full-time editor, I will be working part-time to assist in the editorial work for *The Free Will Baptist*. Although I am new to the Free Will Baptist Press, I have been active in the OFWB church since childhood. As the wife of an OFWB minister, I have had the pleasure to meet many of our readers during Minister's, Woman's Auxiliary, and youth conferences at Cragmont; at denominational workshops, conventions, and conferences; and also through visits to the churches. In this temporary position, my goal is to provide service to you, the readers, throughout the denomination. If I can help you with any questions concerning *The Free Will Baptist*, contact me at the Press on Tuesdays or Fridays between 8:30 and 2:30, or feel free to call me at home (919-747-2354) at other times. Please continue to send your materials for publication addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

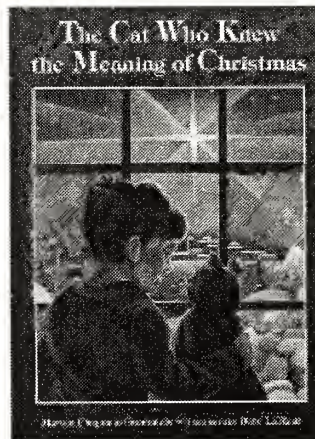
We thank you for your support in the past, and request your prayers that God will send the right individual to fill the editor's position. We also offer our prayers that this Holy season will be a time of hope and encouragement for all of you.

God bless you,

Sheryll Eason Wood

NC 27706

More Books For Christmas

[illegible]

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